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Geronimo Stilton

THE COLISEUM CON



GERONIMO STILTON

GRAPHIC
NOVEL

THE COLISEUM CON



PAPERCUT Z

#3

PAPERCUT Z



GERONIMO STILTON

MY NAME IS STILTON,
GERONIMO STILTON!
MY JOB IS TO EDIT
THE RODENT'S
GAZETTE,
THE MOST
FAMOUS PAPER
ON ALL OF
MOUSE ISLAND!



THEA STILTON

I'M THEA STILTON,
GERONIMO'S SISTER,
A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
FOR THE RODENT'S GAZETTE.
I LOVE ADVENTURE
AND TRAVEL THE WORLD!



BENJAMIN AND PANDORA



I'M BENJAMIN STILTON,
GERONIMO'S NEPHEW,
AND THIS IS MY
FRIEND PANDORA.
WE PLAY TOGETHER
AND HAVE LOTS OF FUN:
WE'RE RAT-TASTIC
FRIENDS!



NOSYMOUSE SQUEAK

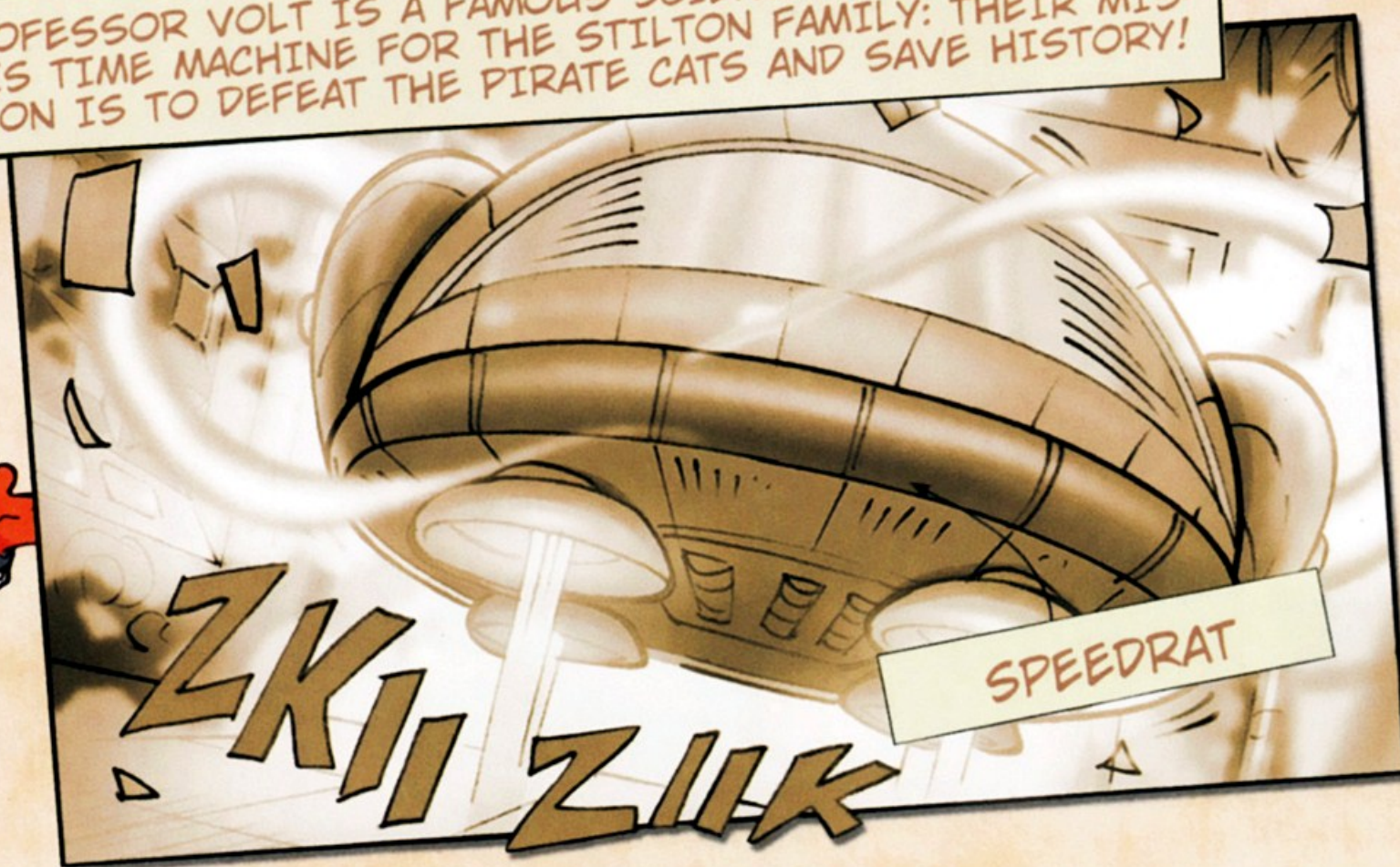


I'M NOSYMOUSE SQUEAK,
AND I'VE BEEN A FRIEND
OF GERONIMO
SINCE PRESCHOOL.
I'M A CLEVER DETECTIVE
AND RUN THE
SQUEAK AGENCY.
I LOVE TO PLAY
TRICKS ON GERONIMO
AND I'M A BANANA-MANIAC!





PROFESSOR VOLT IS A FAMOUS SCIENTIST. HE DESIGNED THIS TIME MACHINE FOR THE STILTON FAMILY: THEIR MISSION IS TO DEFEAT THE PIRATE CATS AND SAVE HISTORY!

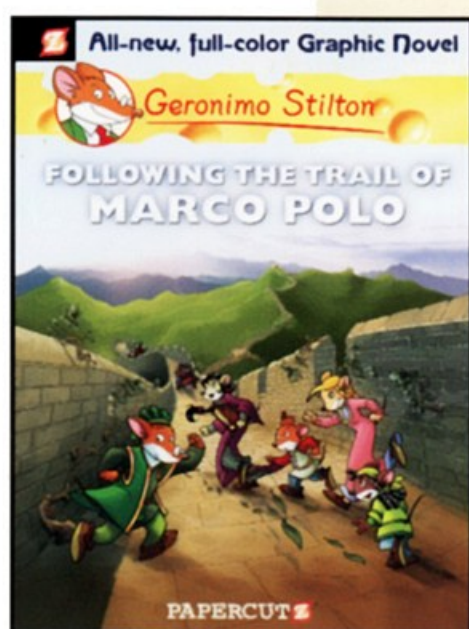
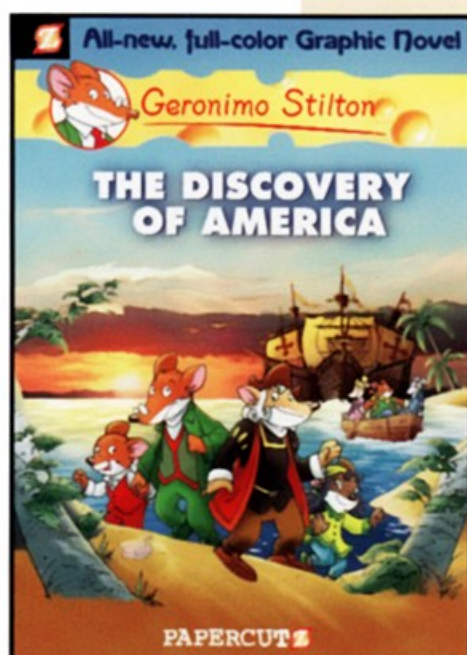


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THE COLISEUM CON



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Geronimo Stilton

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Geronimo Stilton

THE COLISEUM CON

By Geronimo Stilton



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www.geronimostilton.com

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For more information go to www.stiltoncheese.com

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IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL MORNING IN NEW MOUSE CITY. A WARM BREEZE WAS BLOWING, GIVING THE CITY A TASTE OF SPRING.

THE COLISEUM CON

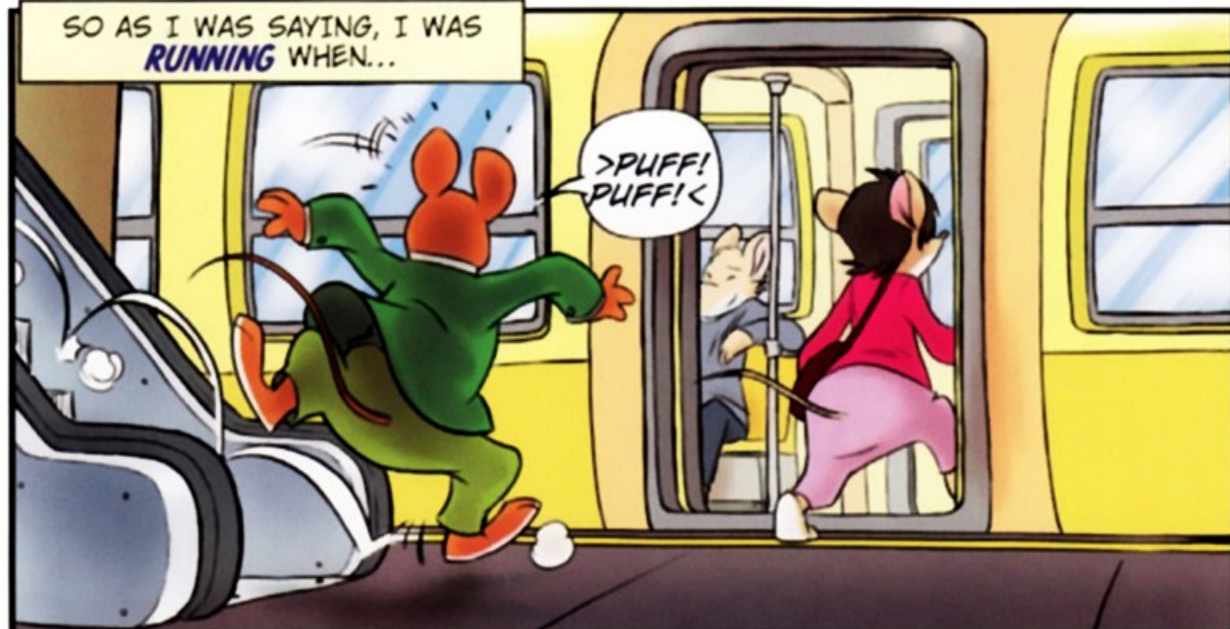
BUT THAT VERY MORNING, MY ALARM CLOCK DIDN'T GO OFF AND I WAS **VERY** LATE!



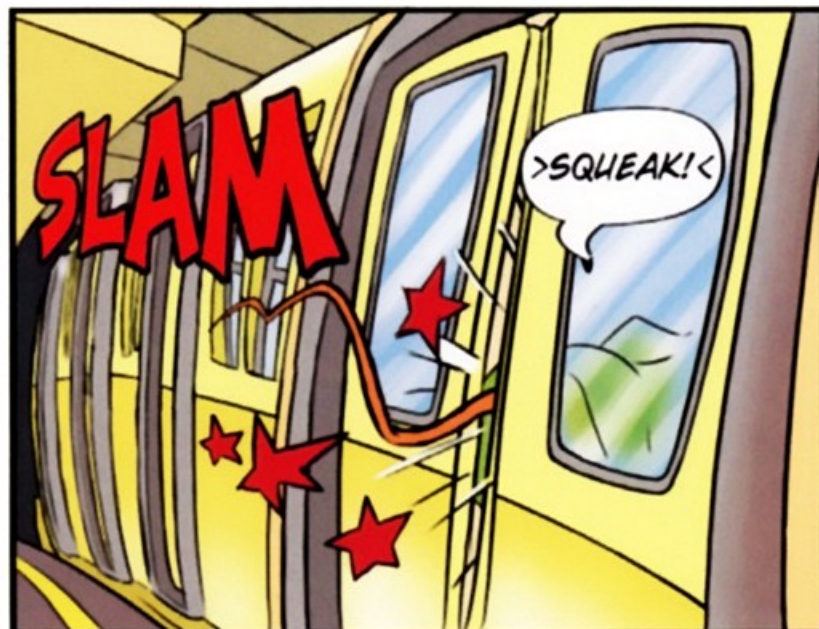
OH, EXCUSE ME, I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF YET. MY NAME IS STILTON, GERONIMO STILTON, AND I EDIT THE RODENT'S GAZETTE, THE MOST FAMOUS PAPER ON MOUSE ISLAND.



SO AS I WAS SAYING, I WAS **RUNNING** WHEN...

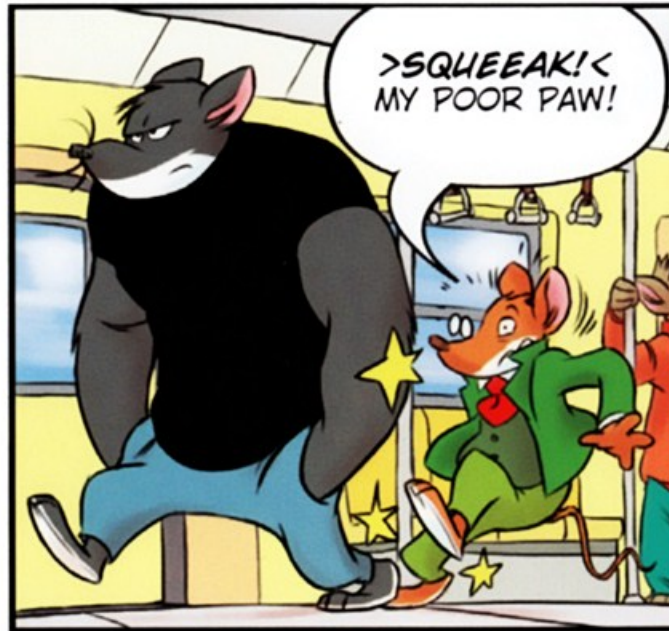


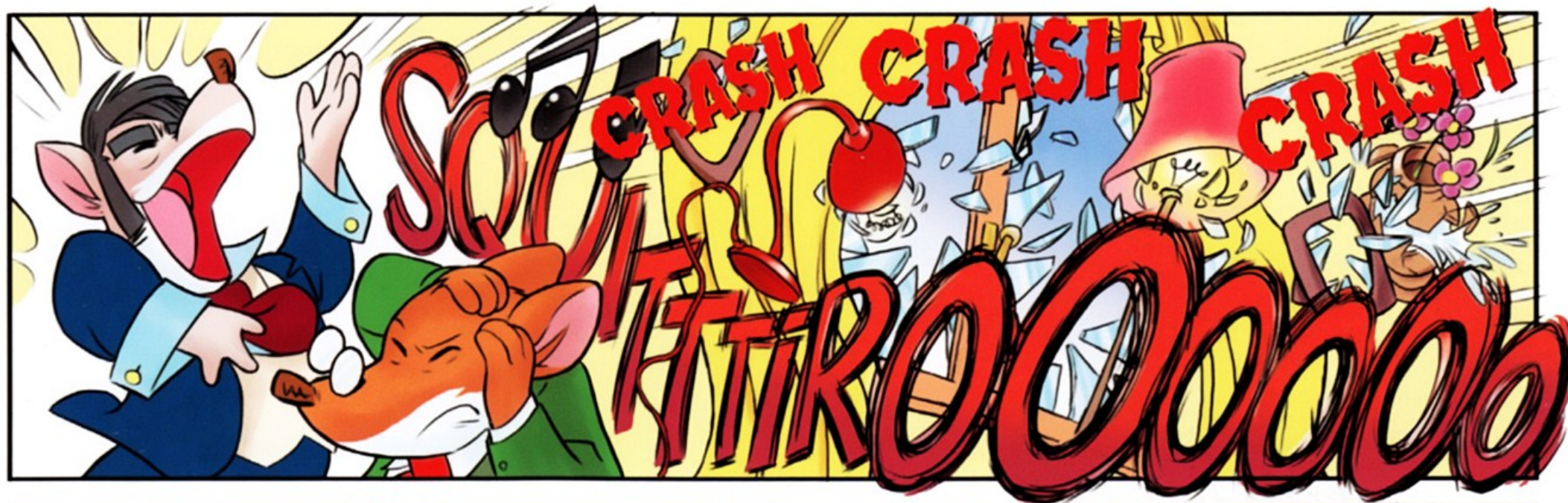
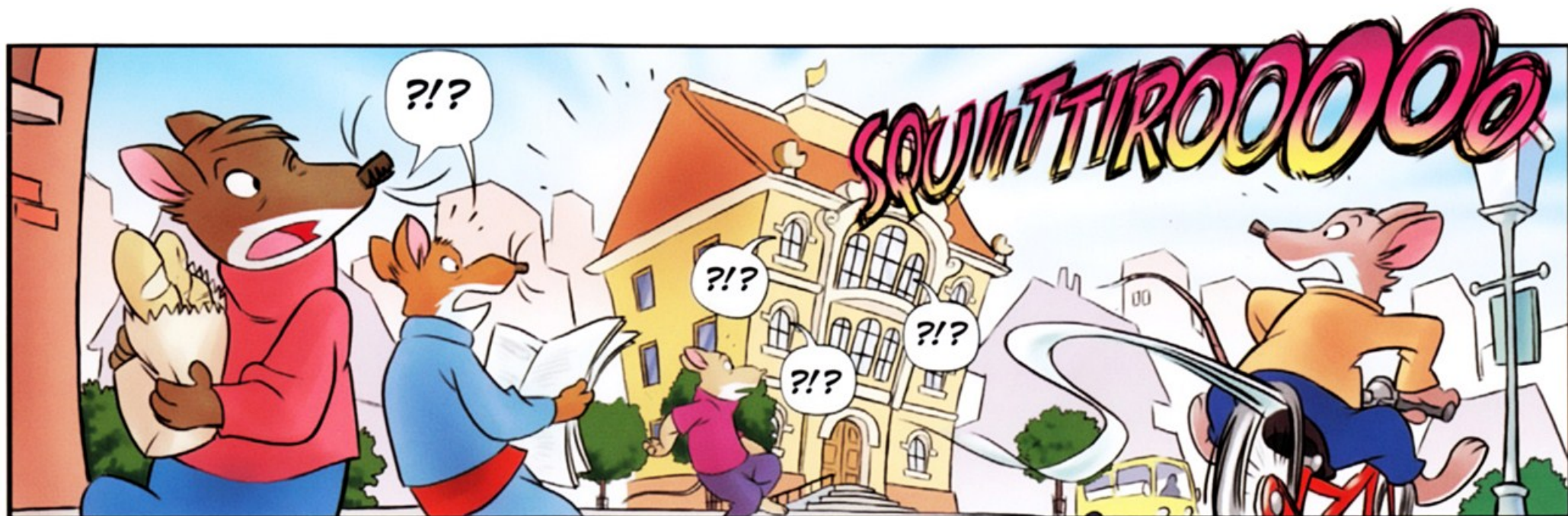
>PUFF!
PUFF!<

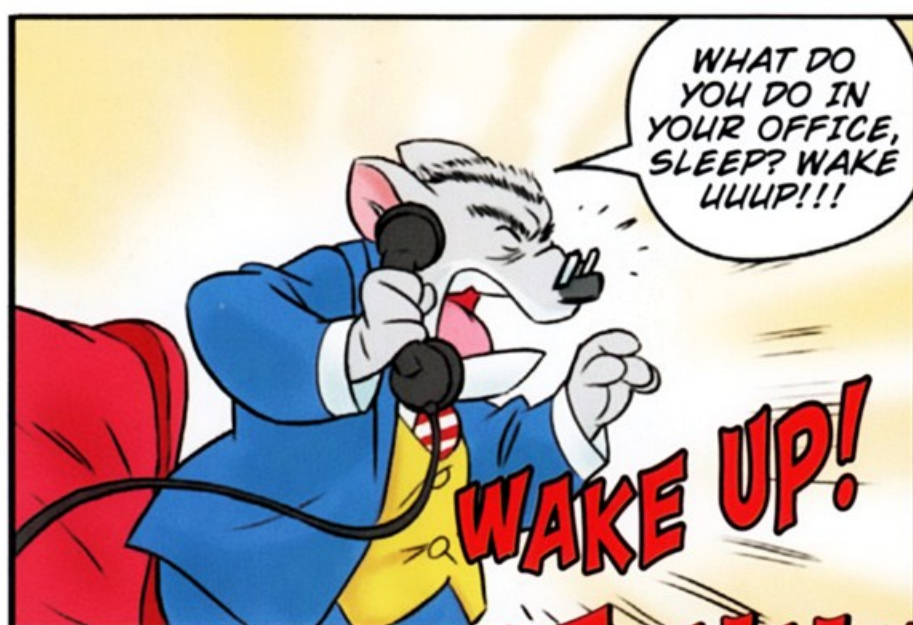
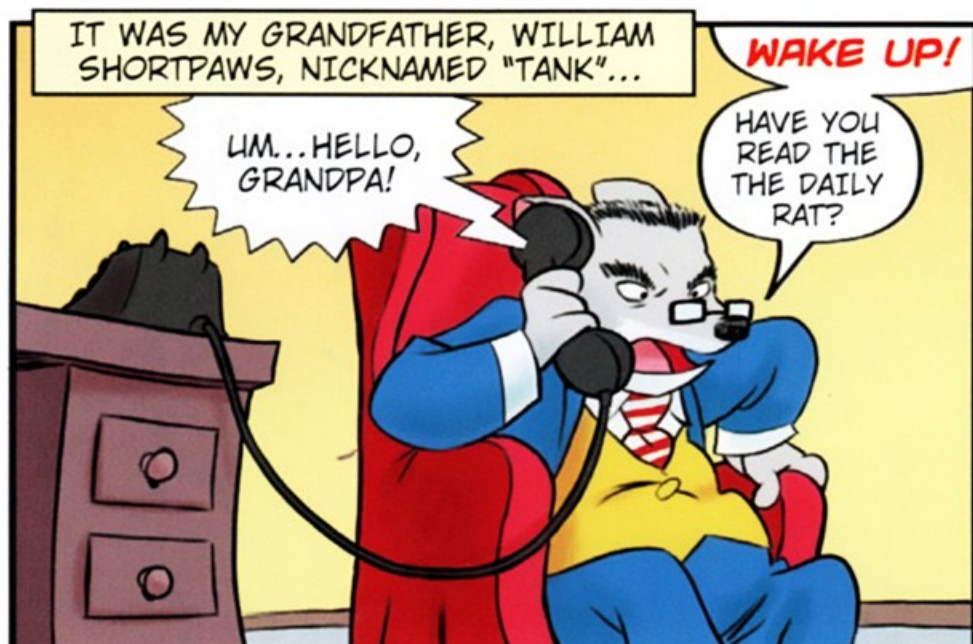


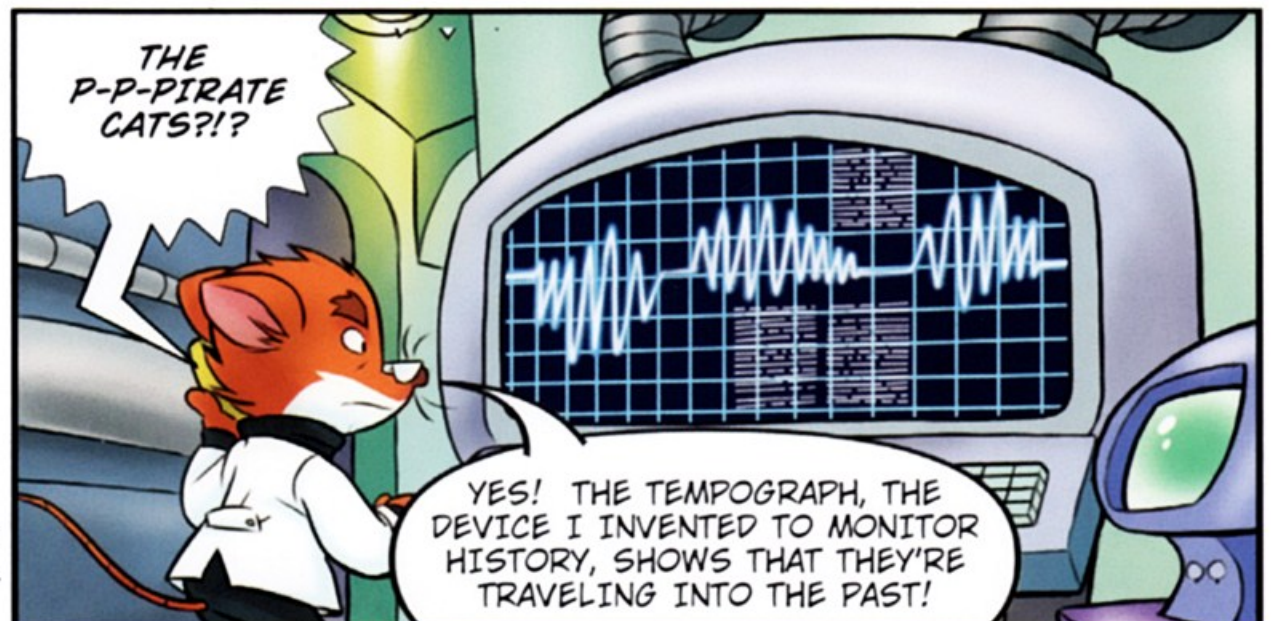
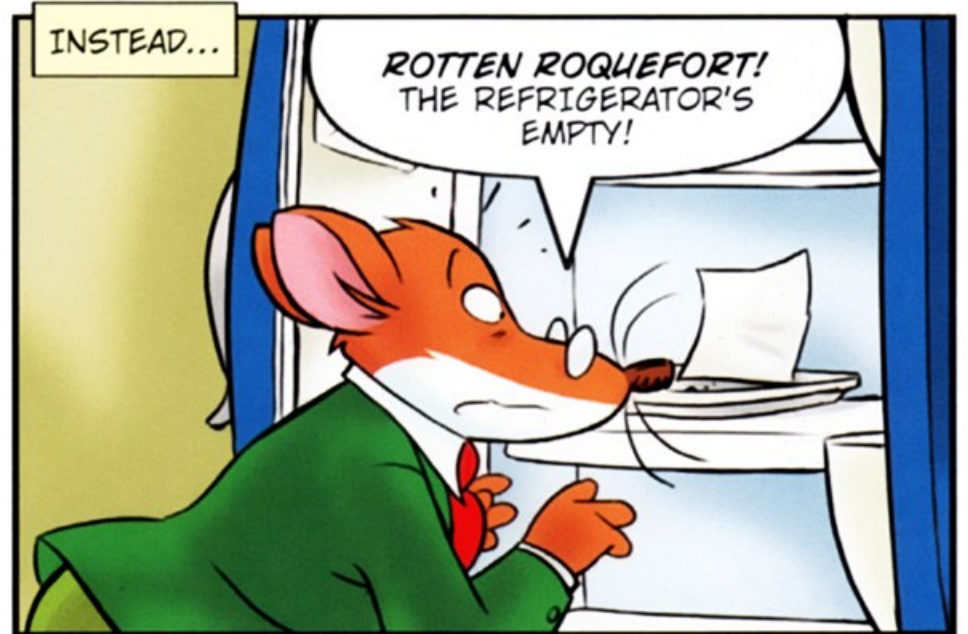
SLAM

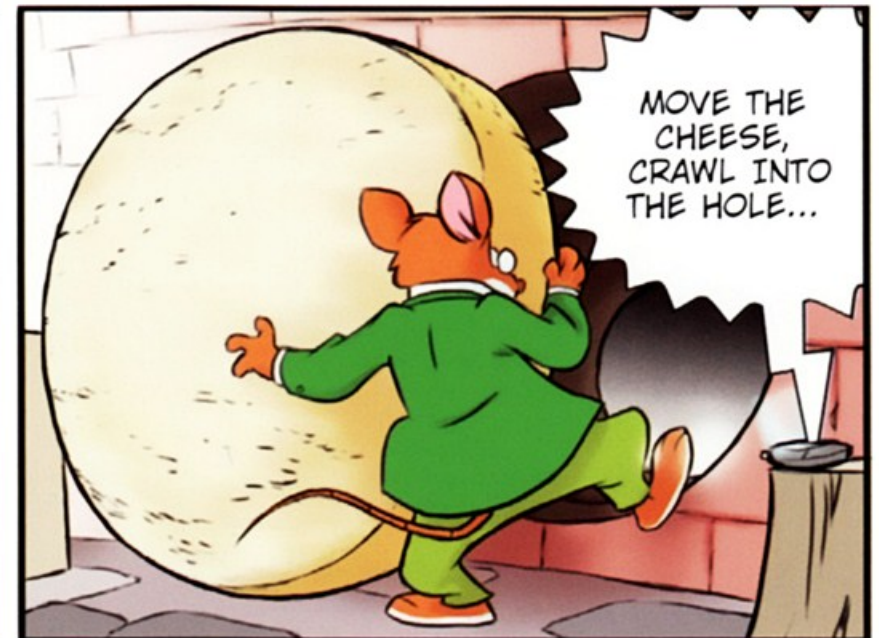
>SQUEAK!<

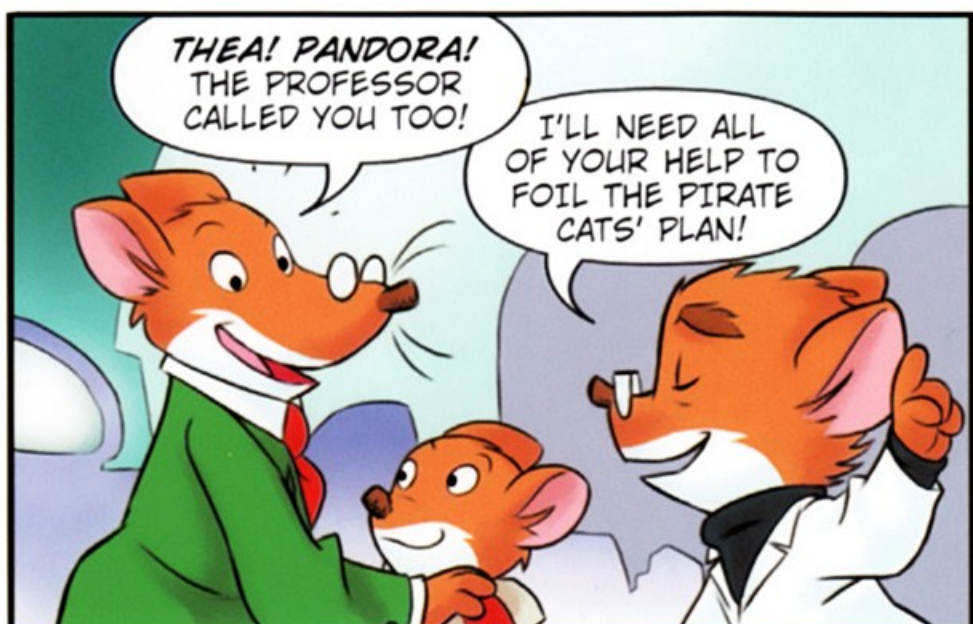
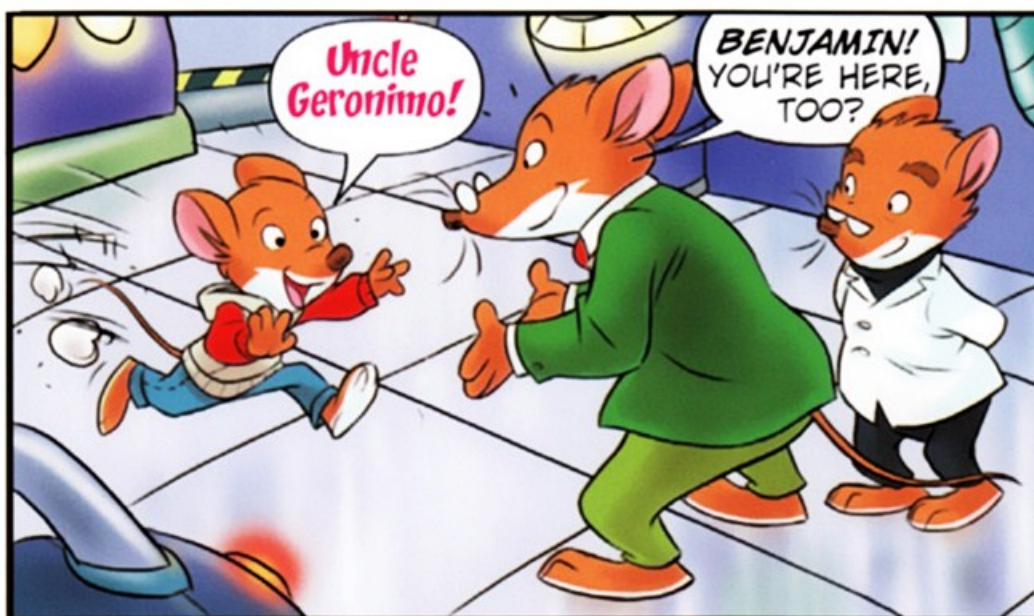
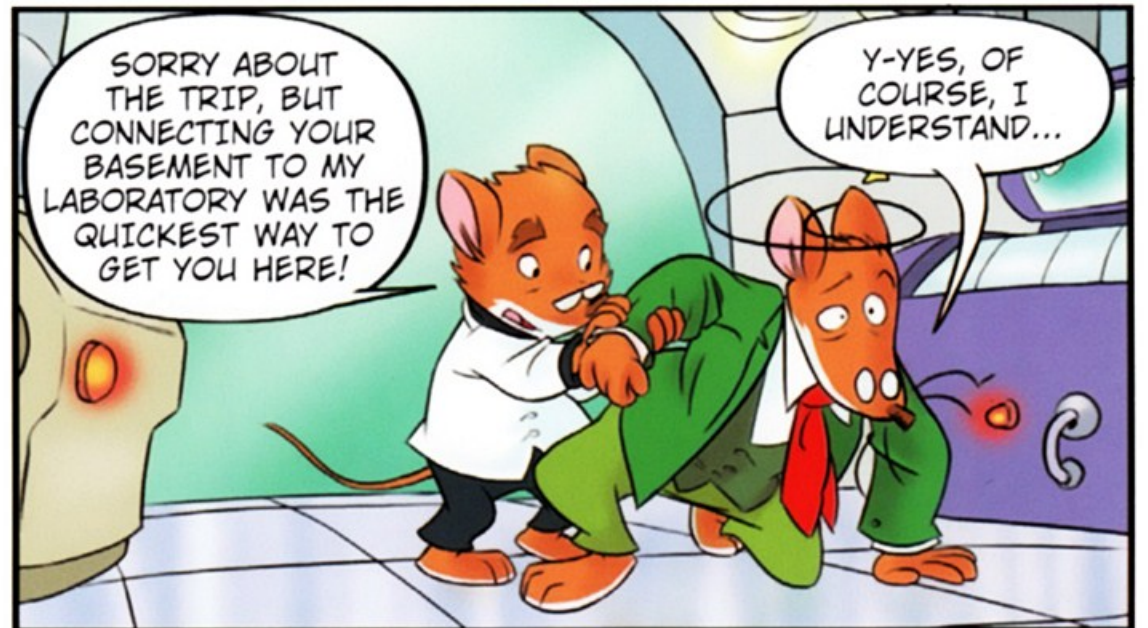
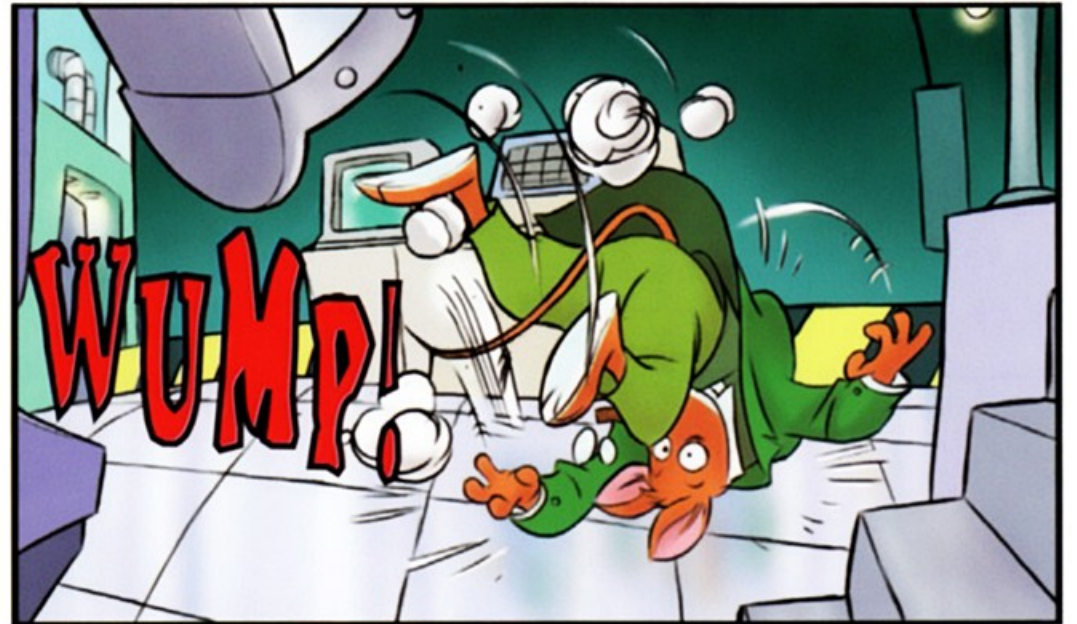













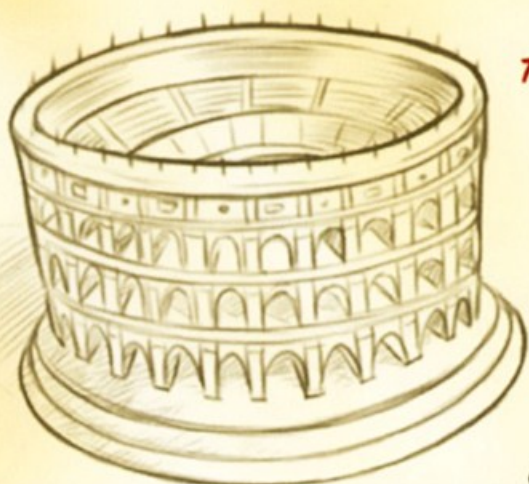




ROME

ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND, THE CITY OF ROME WAS FOUNDED IN AROUND 753 B.C. BY ROMULUS, THE FIRST OF SEVEN KINGS (THE OTHERS WERE, IN ORDER: NUMA POMPILIUS, TULLUS HOSTILLIUS, ANCUS MARCIUS, L. TARQUINIUS PRISCUS, SERVIUS TULLIUS AND TARQUINIUS SUPERBUS). WHEN IT BECAME A REPUBLIC, ROME EXTENDED ITS RULE ACROSS THE ENTIRE BASIN OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND BECAME THE GREATEST POWER OF THE TIME. AFTER A PERIOD OF CIVIL WAR, GAIUS JULIUS CAESAR OCTAVIUS, CAESAR'S NEPHEW, TOOK POWER, TRANSFORMED THE REPUBLIC INTO AN EMPIRE, AND HAD HIMSELF NAMED AUGUSTUS. THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF ANCIENT ROME WAS LATIN, BUT GREEK WAS ALSO SPOKEN WIDELY.

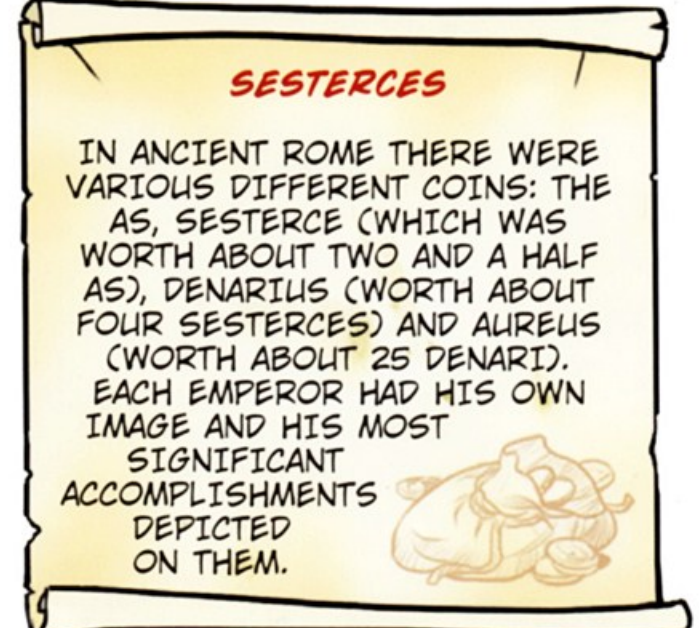
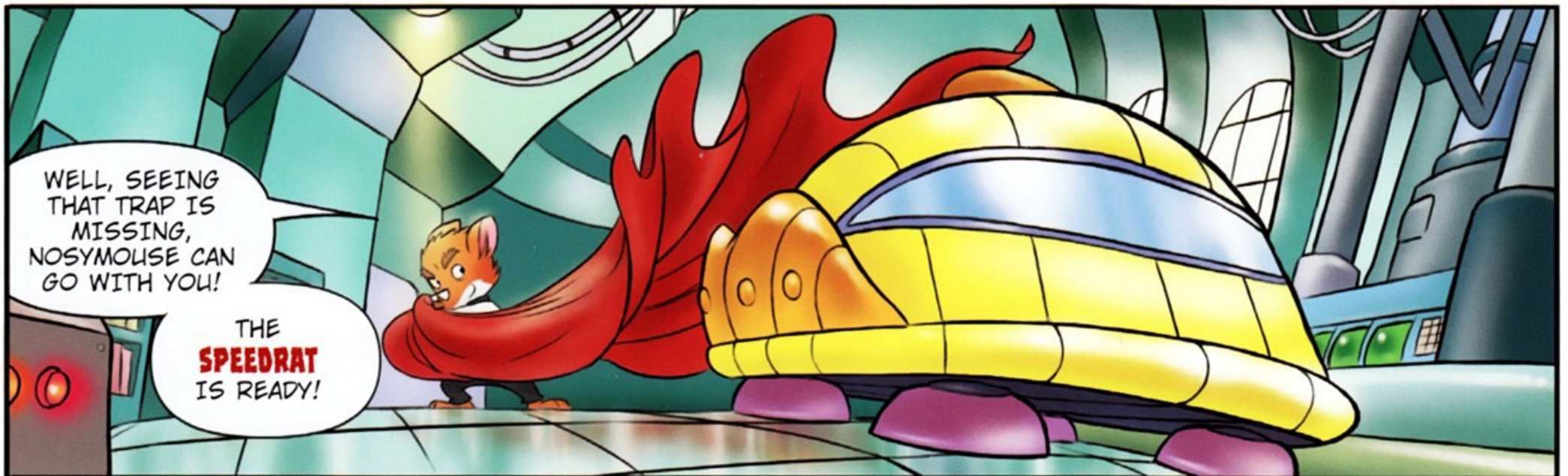


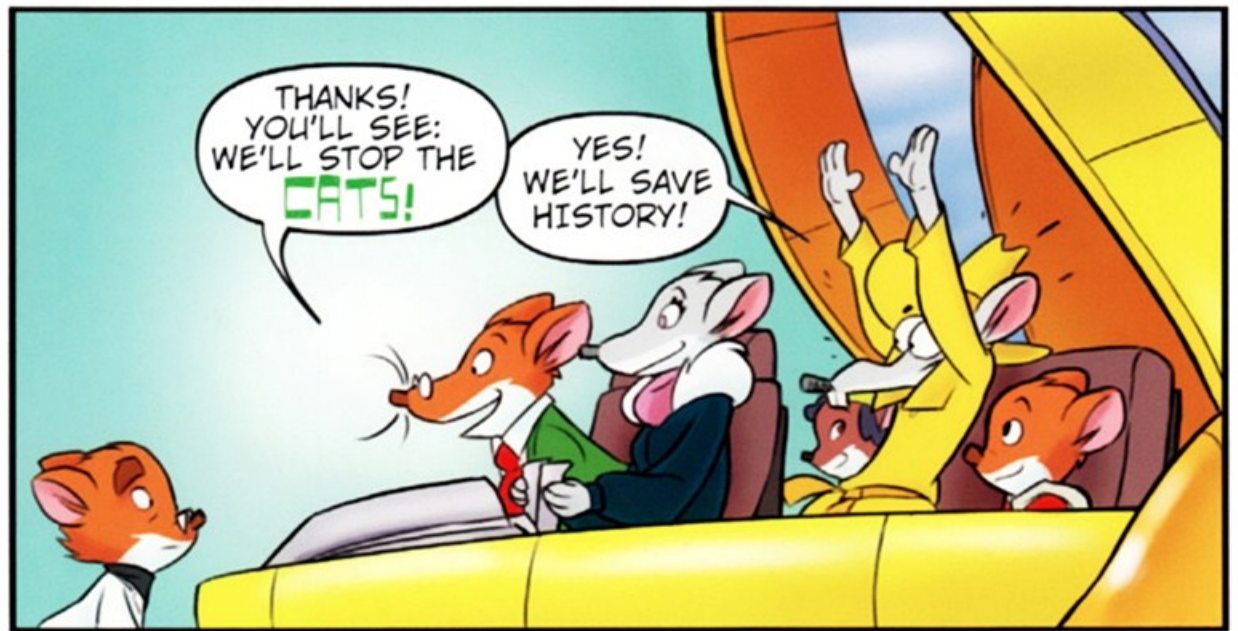


**THE FLAVIAN AMPHITHEATER
(BETTER KNOWN AS
THE COLISEUM)**

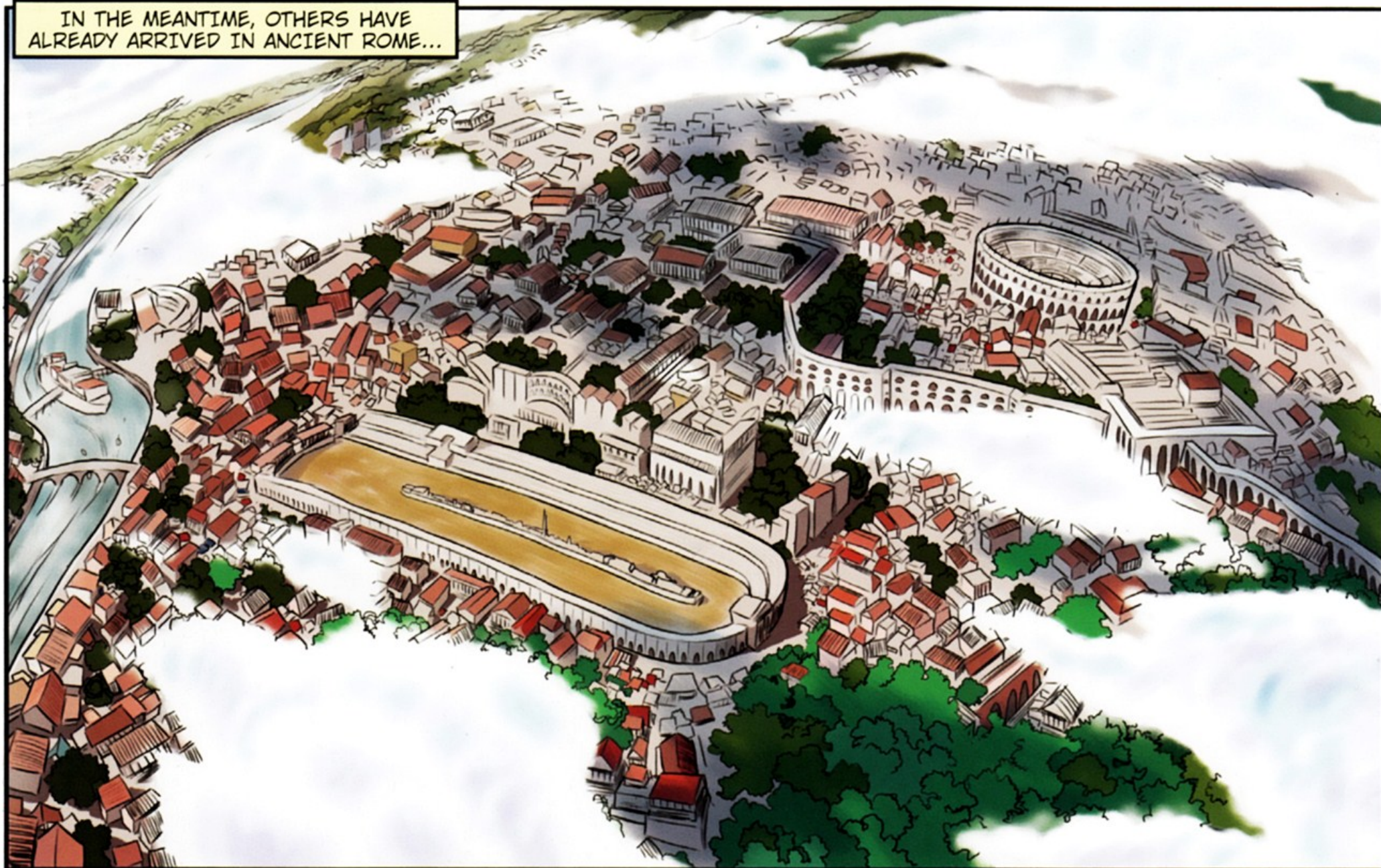
BEGUN IN AROUND 72 A.D. BY EMPEROR VESPASIAN, THE AMPHITHEATER WAS FINISHED AND INAUGURATED IN AROUND 80 A.D., UNDER EMPEROR TITUS. THE AMPHITHEATER WAS GIVEN THE NAME FLAVIAN IN HONOR OF VESPASIAN AND TITUS, WHO BELONGED TO THE FLAVIAN "GENS" (THAT'S "FAMILY" IN LATIN). THE DERIVATION OF THE NAME "COLISEUM" -- WHICH THE AMPHITHEATER HAS COME TO BE KNOWN BY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD -- IS LESS CERTAIN. ACCORDING TO SOME STORIES, THE NAME COMES FROM THE FACT THAT IN ANCIENT TIMES, A GIGANTIC STATUE OF THE EMPEROR NERO NAMED THE "COLOSSUS NERONIS," -- THAT'S THE "COLOSSUS OF NERO" -- LOOMED NEARBY. MORE THAN 150 FEET TALL AND WITH THREE ROWS OF ARCHES, THE COLISEUM COULD HOLD 50,000 SPECTATORS. INSIDE, THE SO-CALLED "ROMAN CIRCUS" WAS HELD, WHICH HAD GAMES AND ALSO GLADIATORIAL COMBAT -- EVEN SHIP BATTLES (THE AMPHITHEATER WAS FILLED WITH WATER SOMETIMES). IN THE UPPER PART OF THE AMPHITHEATER, THERE WERE WOODEN POLES FOR HOLDING UP CANVAS TENTS, WHICH WERE TO PROTECT SPECTATORS FROM THE SUN. UNDER THE CENTRAL PART OF THE AMPHITHEATER THERE WERE ROOMS AND SUBTERRANEAN CORRIDORS, IN WHICH THE MEN, ANIMALS, AND MACHINERY FOR THE GAMES WERE HIDDEN.







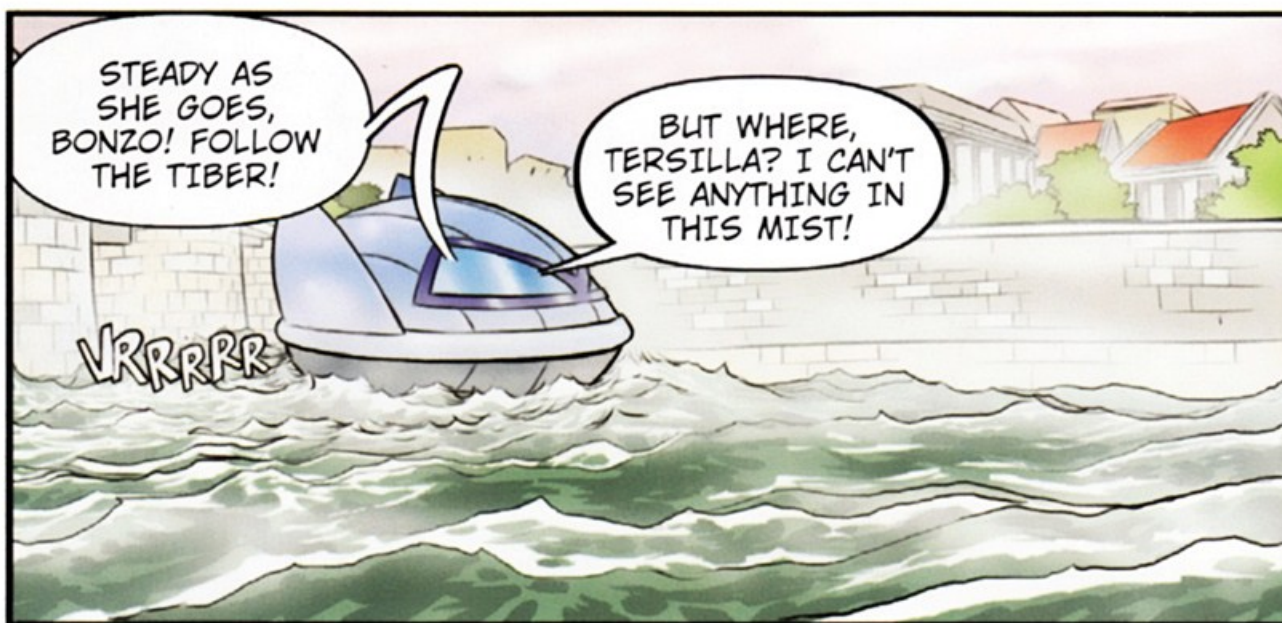
IN THE MEANTIME, OTHERS HAVE
ALREADY ARRIVED IN ANCIENT ROME...



STEADY AS
SHE GOES,
BONZO! FOLLOW
THE TIBER!

BUT WHERE,
TERSILLA? I CAN'T
SEE ANYTHING IN
THIS MIST!

VRRRRR



THE TIBER

IS A RIVER IN CENTRAL ITALY. IT
ORIGINATES ON MT. FUMAILOLO, WHICH
IS IN THE APENNINES IN EMILIA-
ROMAGNA, AND CROSSES THROUGH
THE CITY OF ROME, CONTINUING THEN
TO FLOW INTO THE TYRRHENIAN SEA.
IT'S ABOUT 400 KILOMETERS LONG.
DURING THE TIME OF ANCIENT ROME,
THE TIBER WAS A MAJOR ROUTE FOR
COMMUNICATION, USED TO TRANSPORT
MANY GOODS FROM THE SEA TO ROME,
AND CONTINUING INLAND FROM THERE.

SO USE THE RADAR! JUST
MAKE SURE YOU DON'T SLAM
INTO THE RIVER BANK.

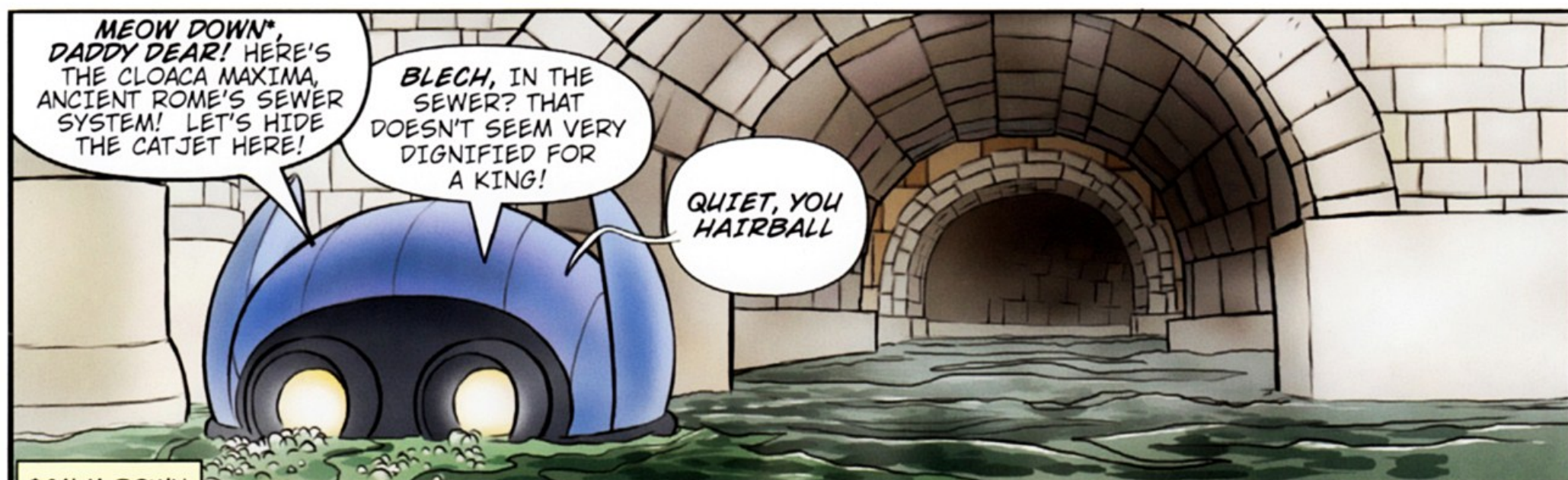
OKAY, OKAY!
BUT I DON'T
UNDERSTAND WHY
IT'S ALWAYS MY
TURN TO DRIVE!



BECAUSE I'M CATARDONE,
RULER OF THE PIRATE CATS
AND SHE'S MY DAUGHTER!
DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING
BETWEEN YOUR EARS?

OW! THAT BLOW'S
BETWEEN MY EARS...
BUT NOT THE
EXPLANATION!





*CALM DOWN

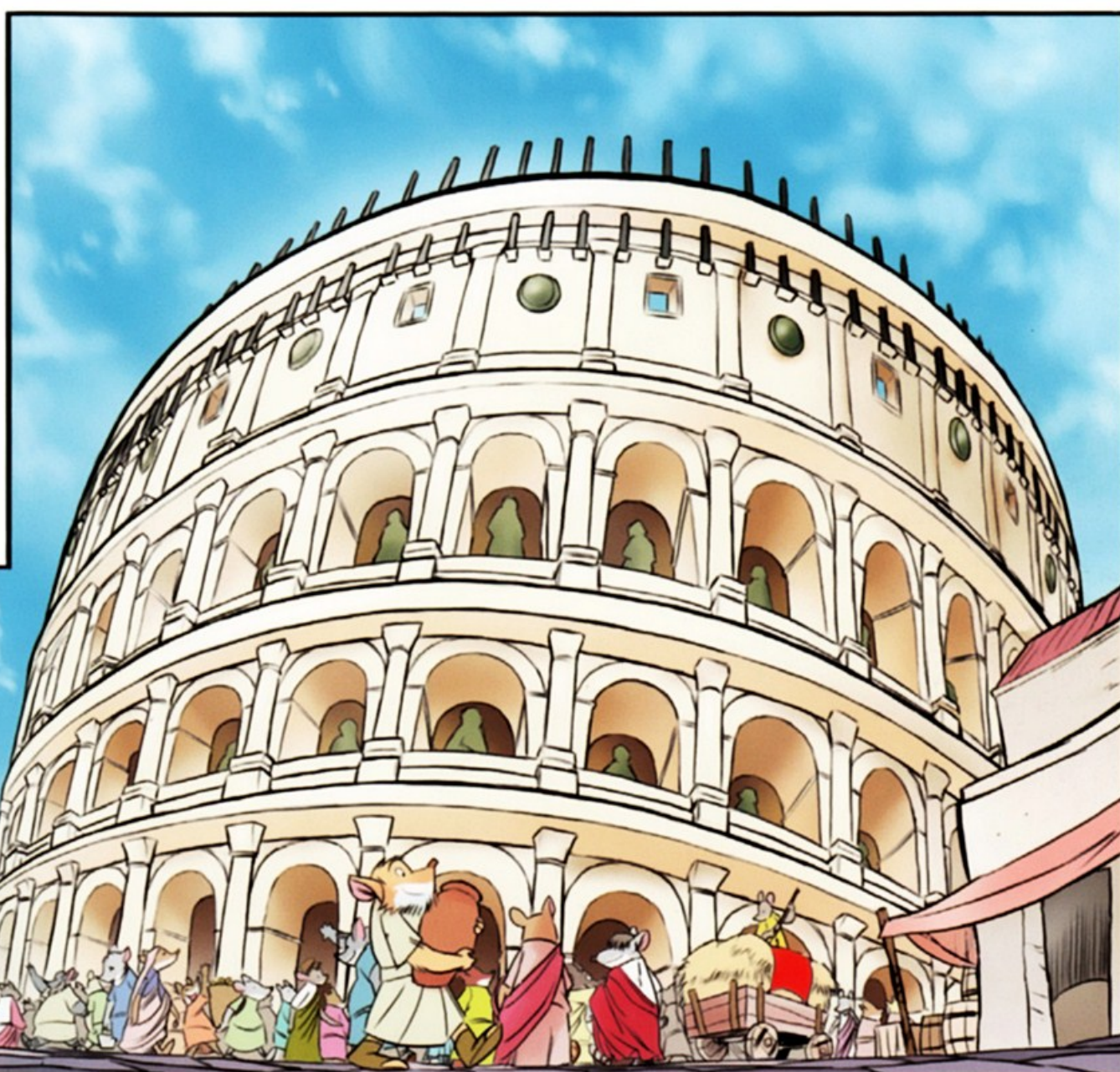
THE CLOACA MAXIMA

ROME IS THE MOST ANCIENT CITY TO HAVE BUILT A NETWORK OF SEWERS FOR DUMPING LIQUID REFUSE. CONSTRUCTED IN THE 6TH CENTURY B.C. BY THE LAST KINGS OF ROME, THE CLOACA MAXIMA WAS DUG OUT BELOW GROUND LEVEL. ORIGINALLY IT WAS AN OPEN-AIR CANAL THAT LIQUID REFUSE WAS THROWN INTO. ONLY LATER WAS IT COVERED OVER.

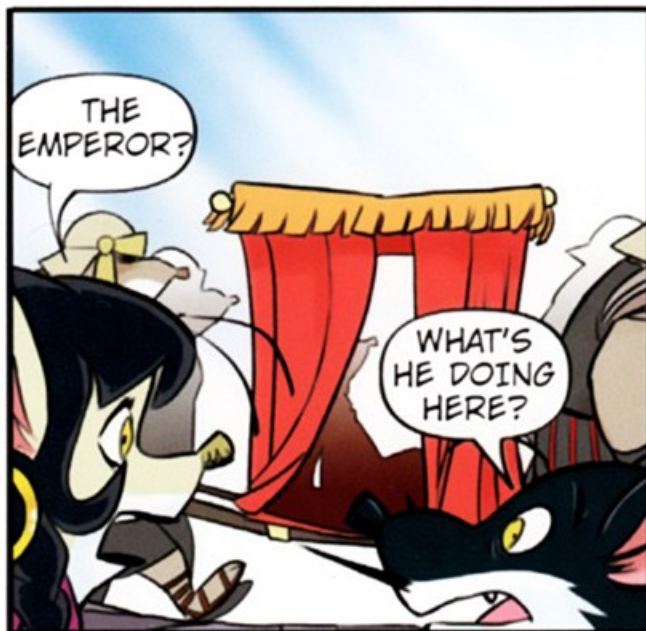




*A PAIN



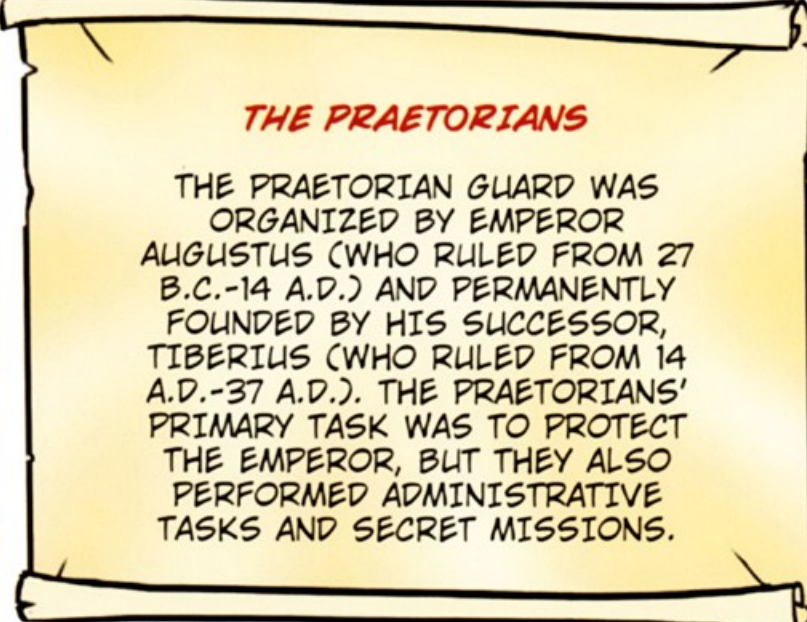


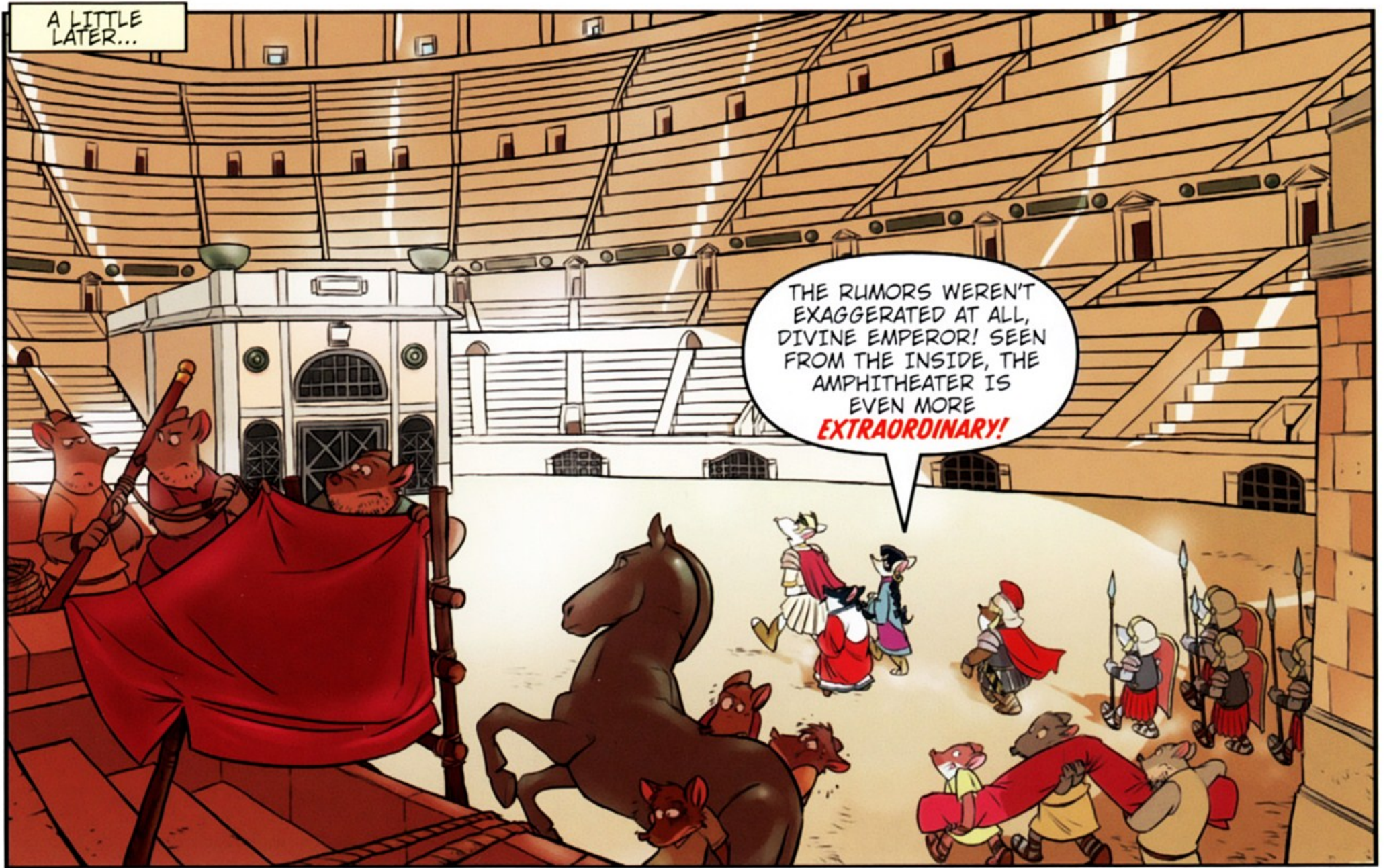


EMPEROR TITUS

THE EMPEROR'S FULL NAME WAS TITUS FLAVIUS VESPASIANUS BUT HE CAME TO BE CALLED JUST TITUS IN ORDER TO DISTINGUISH HIM FROM HIS FATHER, WHO HAD THE SAME NAME AND WENT DOWN IN HISTORY AS VESPASIAN. TITUS WAS AN EMPEROR GREATLY LOVED BY HIS PEOPLE. HIS POLICIES WERE INSPIRED BY THE PRINCIPLES OF LEGALITY, GENEROSITY, AND MERCY: DURING HIS ENTIRE REIGN (79 A.D.-81 A.D.) TITUS AVOIDED WIELDING THE DEATH PENALTY, WHICH WAS IN FORCE AT THAT TIME.

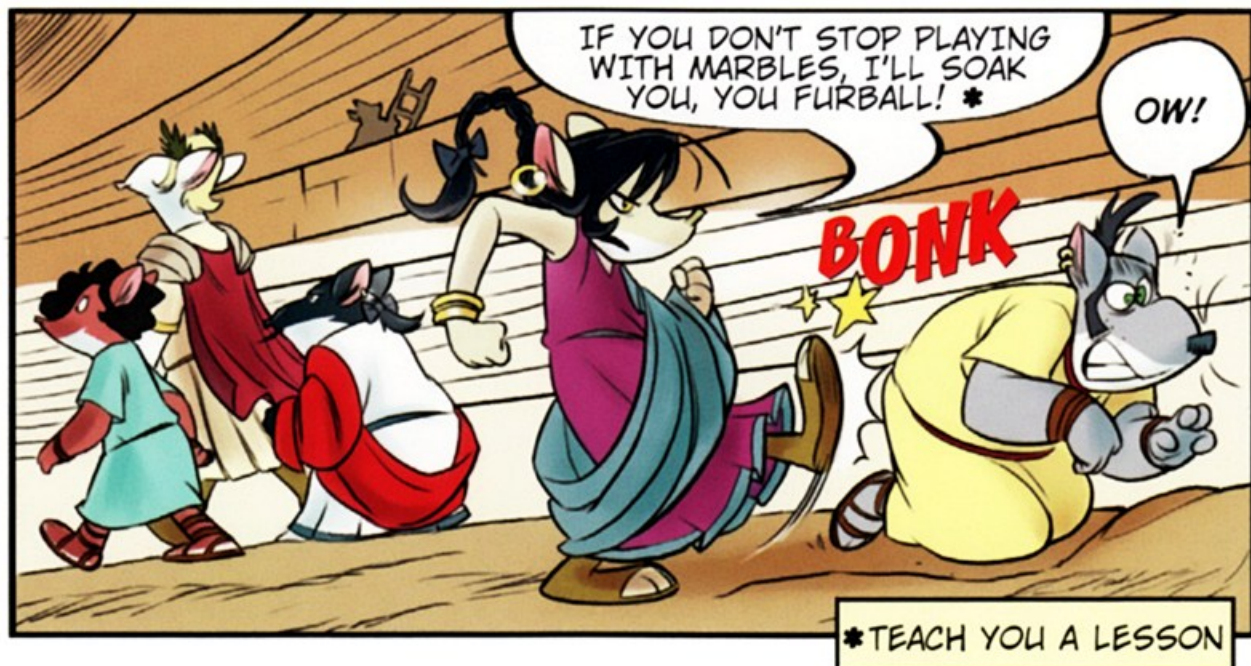






*HAIL





FINALLY, WE ALSO ARRIVED
IN ANCIENT ROME...

A FEW MORE DRY
BRANCHES AND THE
SPEEDRAT WILL BE
COMPLETELY CAMOU-
FLAGED!

IS THIS
BUSH
OKAY, THEA?

LOOK OUT:
THAT'S A NETTLE!
AND TAKE THAT
THING OFF YOUR
HEAD. IN THIS
PERIOD, THOSE
HATS DIDN'T EVEN
EXIST YET!

I'M KEEPING MY
HAT: IT'S A PRESENT
FROM MY GRANDMA.
BUT IF YOU ASK
ME TO DO IT...

HEE,
HEE!

WELL DONE! AND NOW LET'S
GET GOING! THE PIRATE CATS
ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH
OF A LEAD ON US!

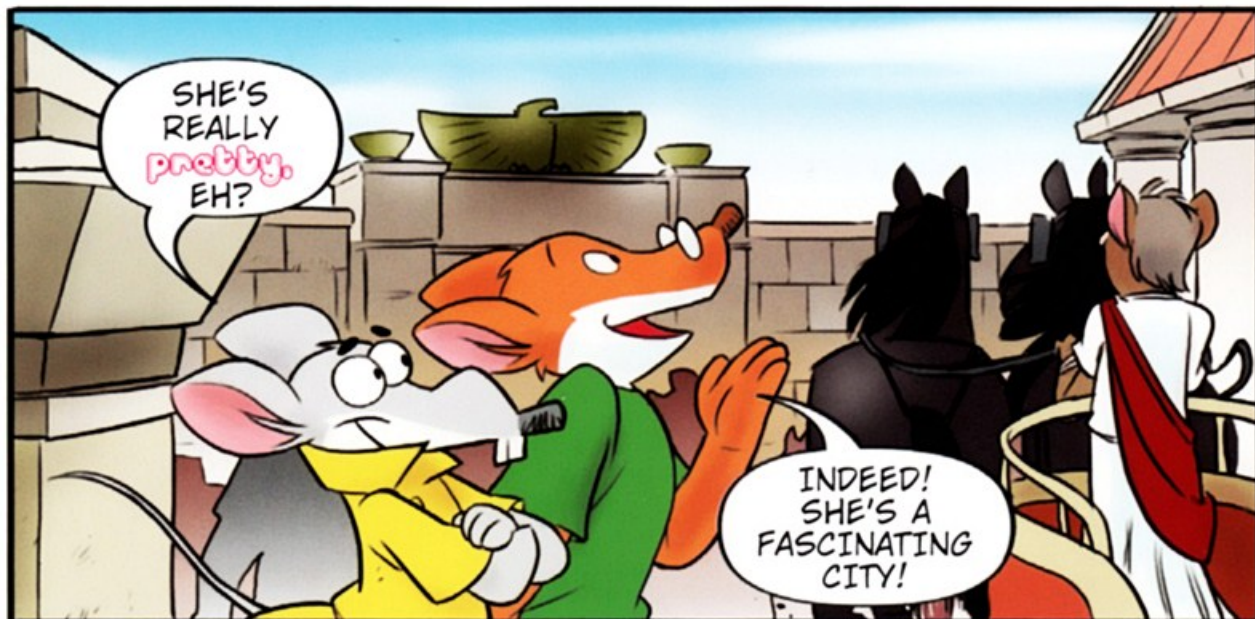
TRACKING THEM
DOWN IN A CITY
AS BIG AS ROME
ISN'T GOING TO
BE EASY!

MAYBE IT
WOULD BE BETTER
TO SPLIT UP INTO
TWO LITTLE
GROUPS TO
SEARCH!

RIGHT! YOU AND
GERONIMO WILL GO TO
THE COLISEUM: ITS
INAUGURATION IS
OUR ONLY TRAIL.

MEANWHILE THE
KIDS AND I WILL
SEARCH THE CITY!

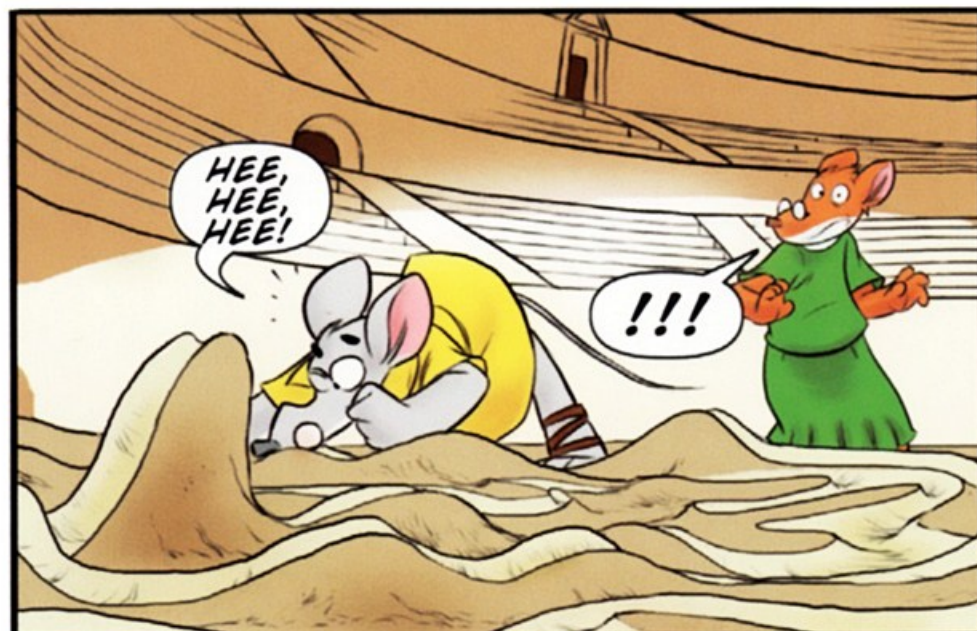
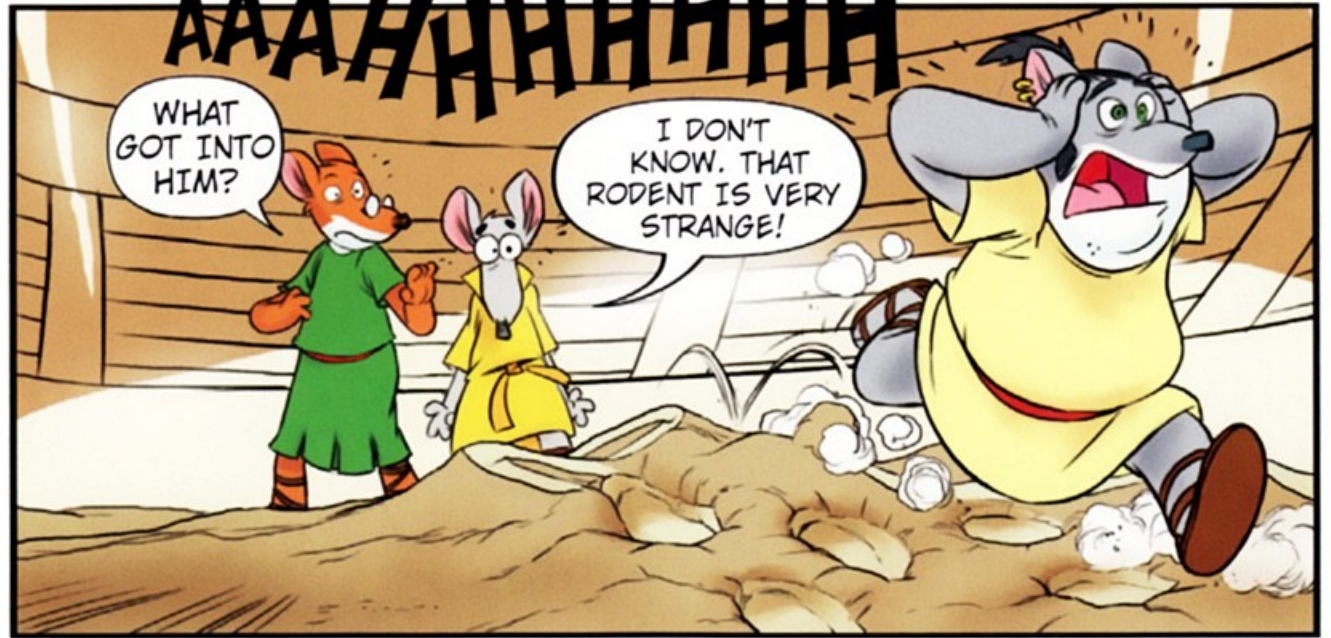
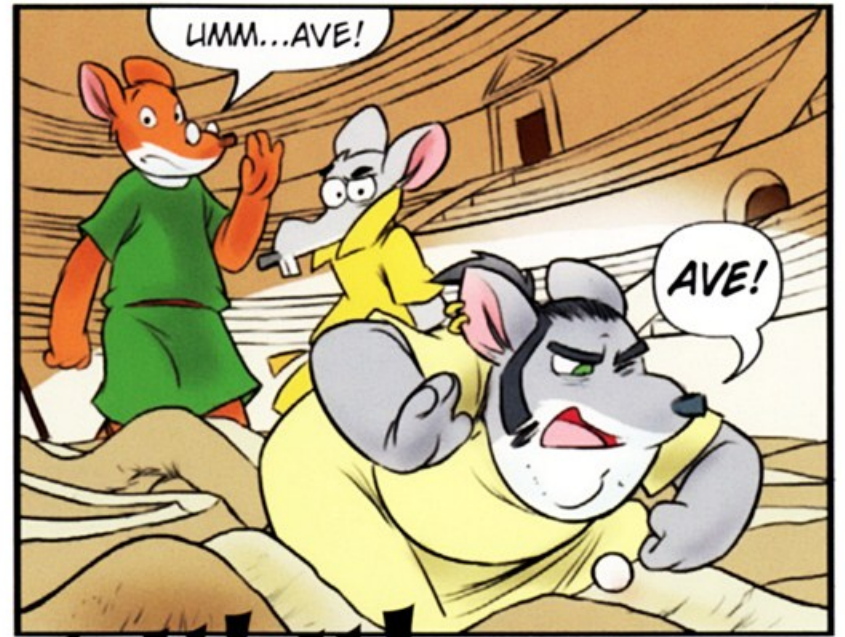
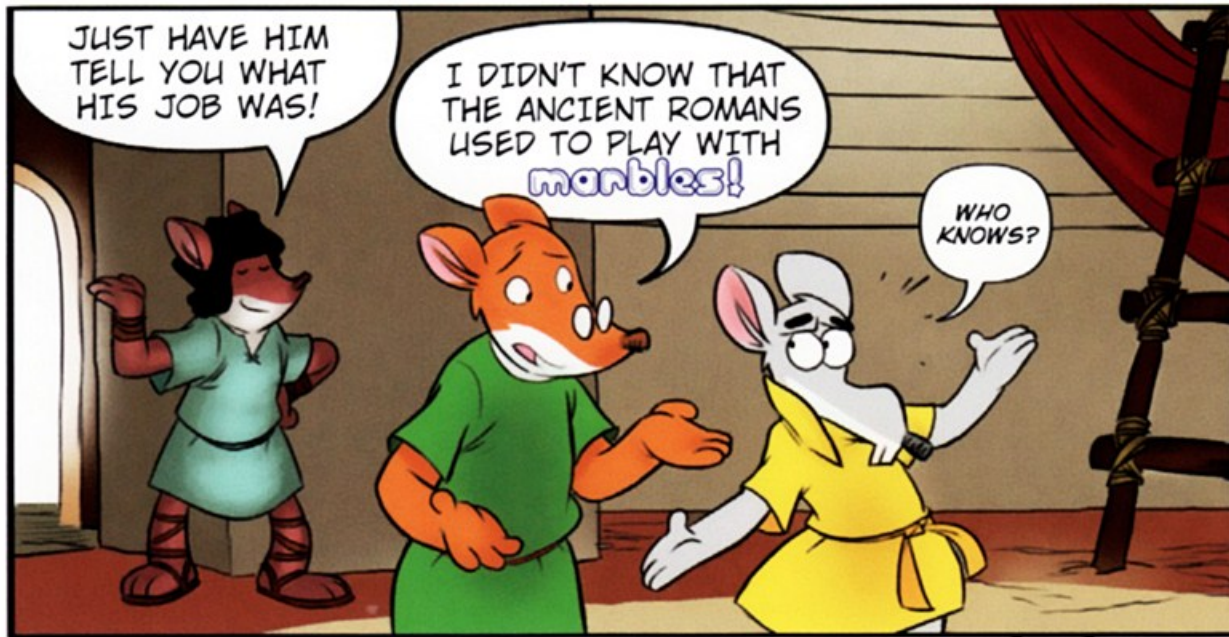
A LITTLE LATER...

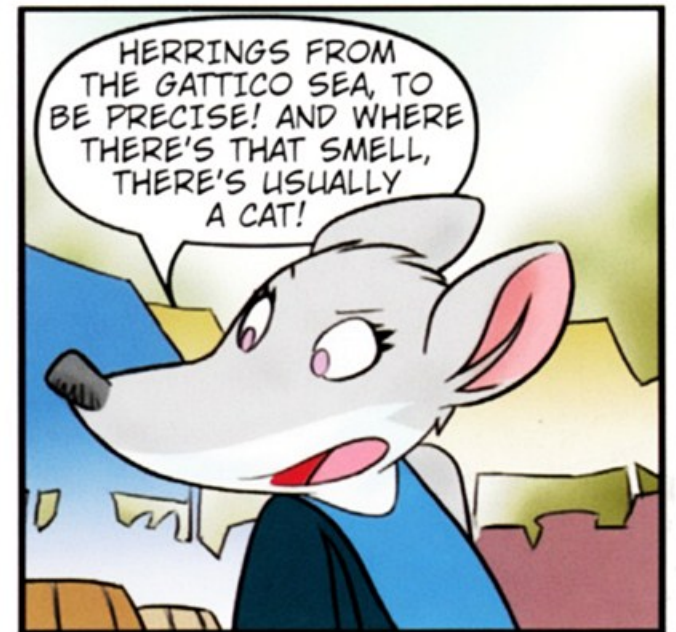


A HALF HOUR LATER,
IN FRONT OF THE
COLISEUM...







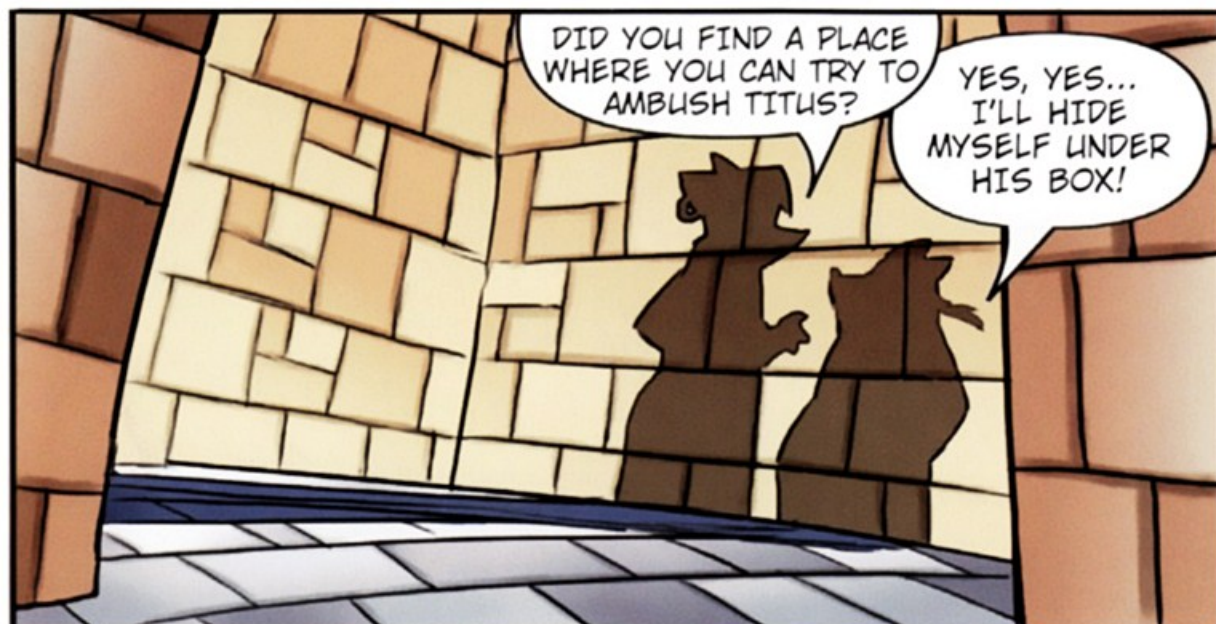


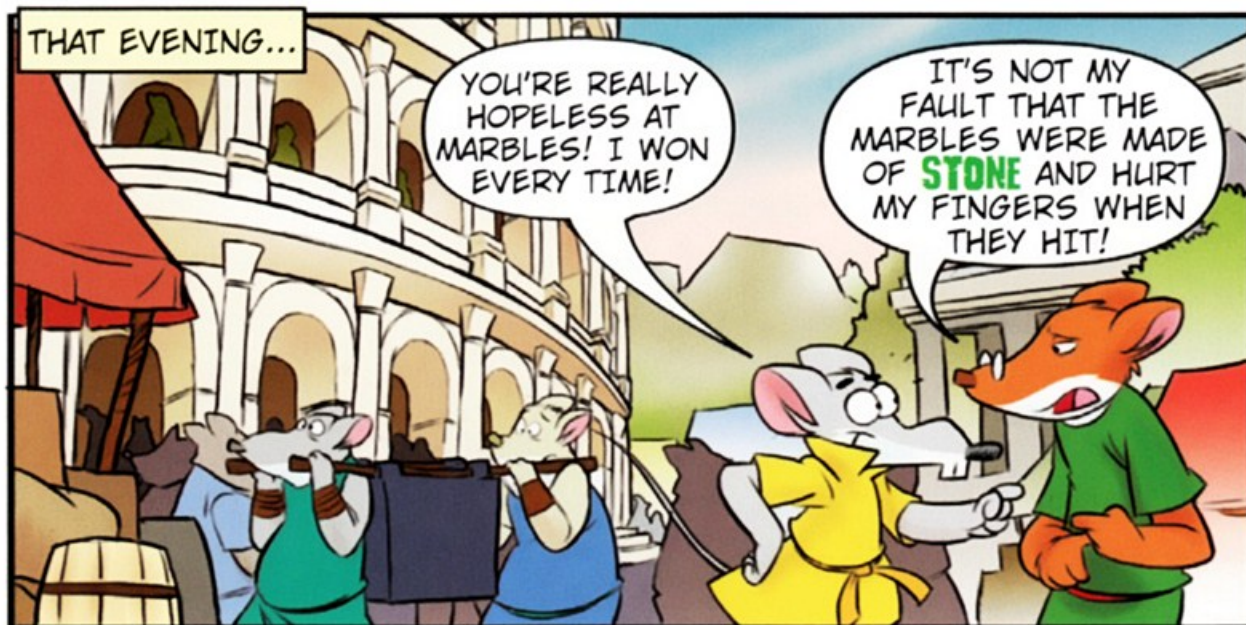
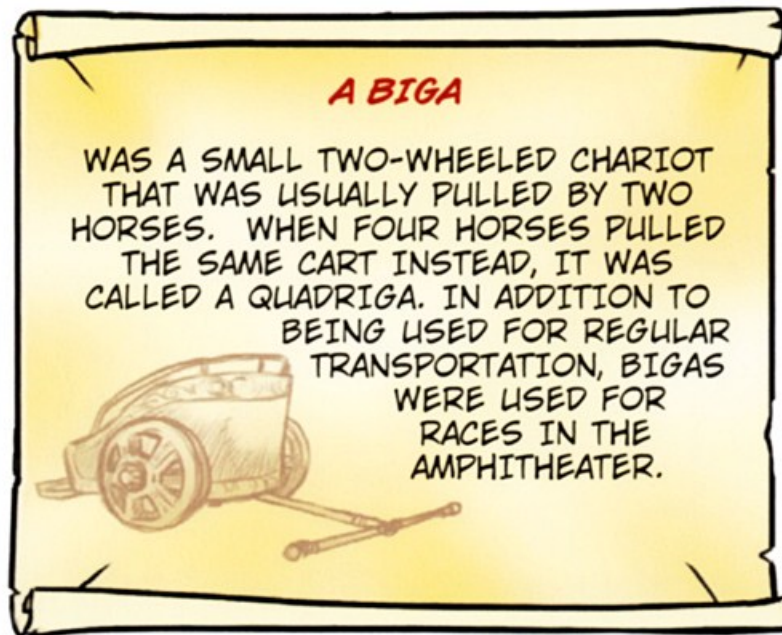
MATRONS

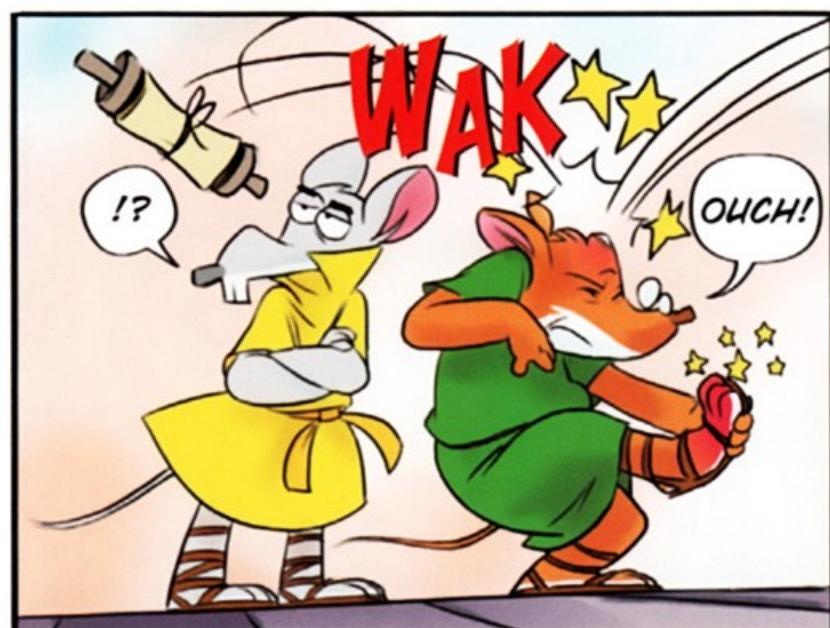
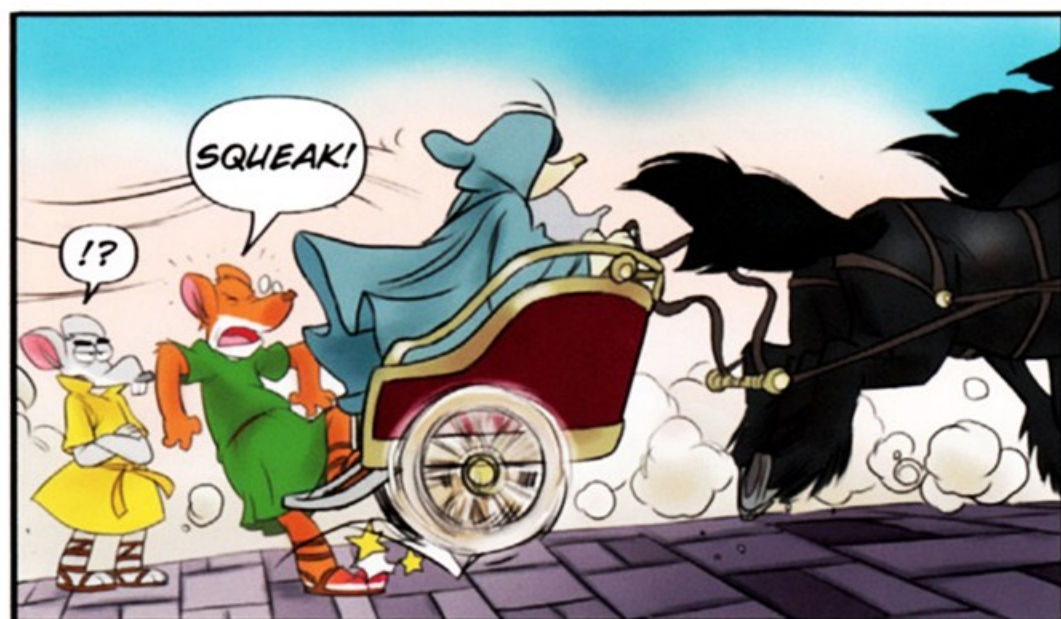
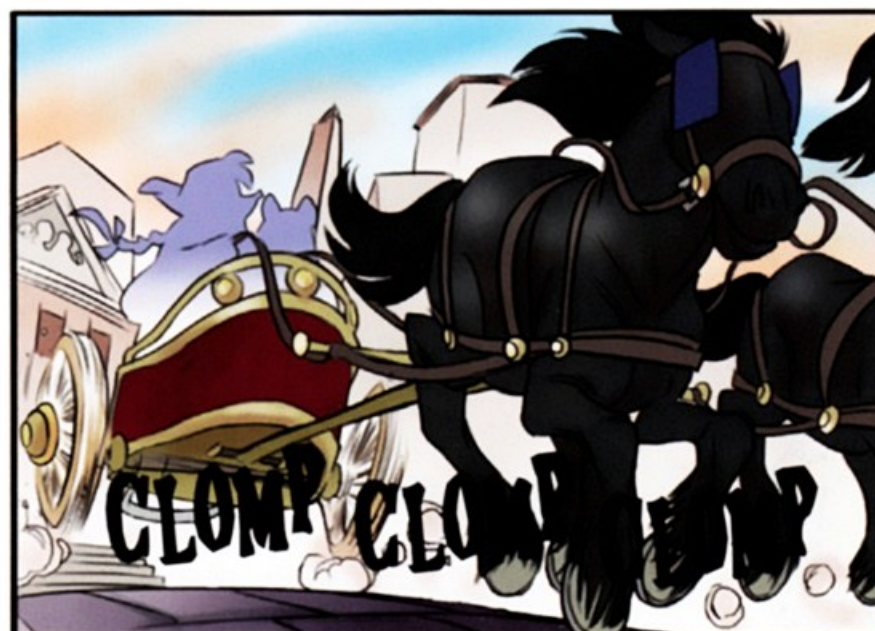
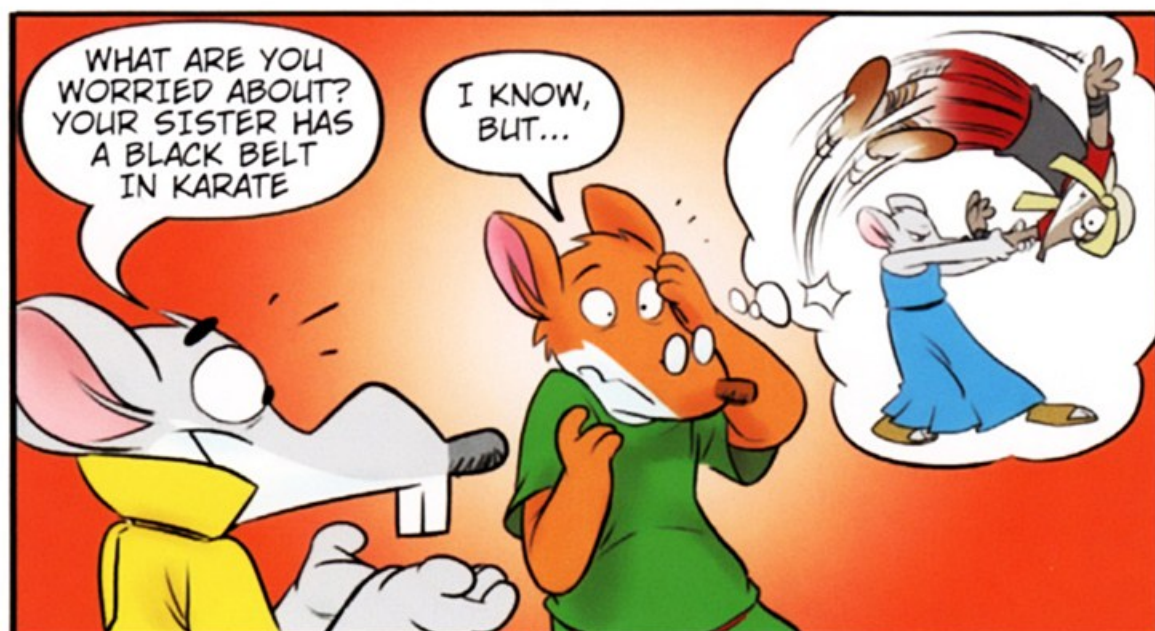
IN ANCIENT ROME, LADIES WERE CALLED MATRONS. BY LAW, WOMEN WERE ECONOMICALLY DEPENDENT ON THEIR FATHERS, HUSBANDS, OR CLOSEST MALE RELATIVES. THEY HAD NO RIGHTS BUT WERE VERY WELL RESPECTED AND LISTENED TO WITHIN THE FAMILY.

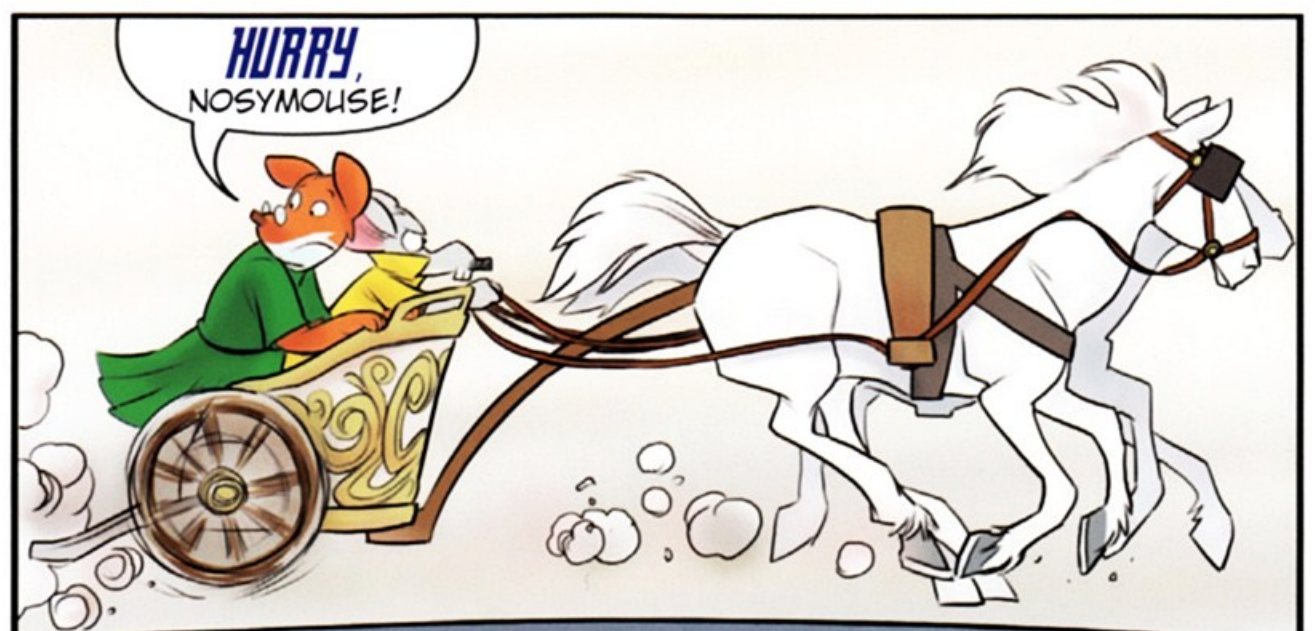
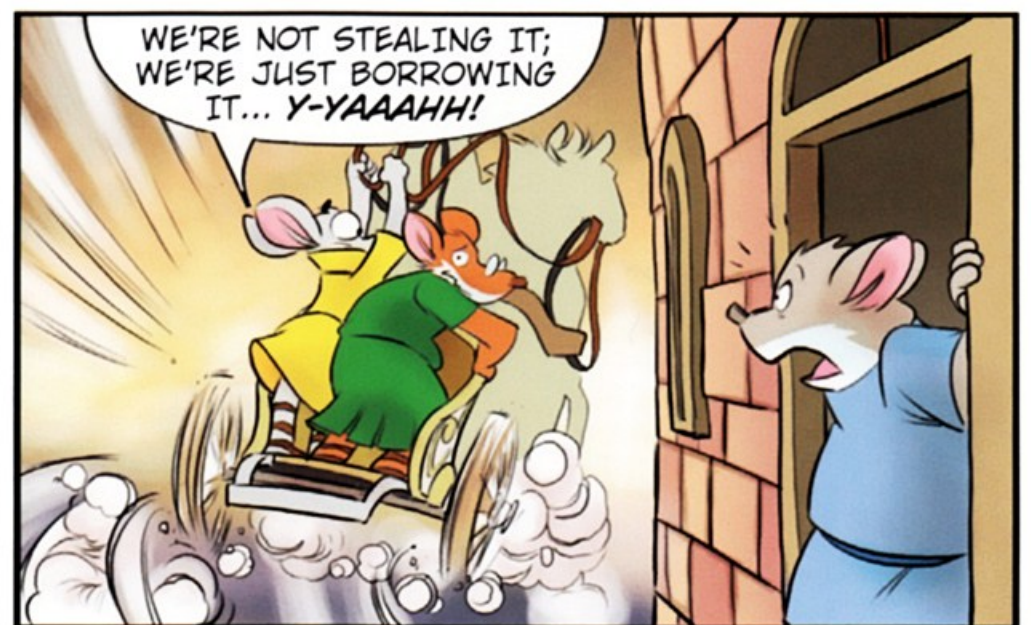
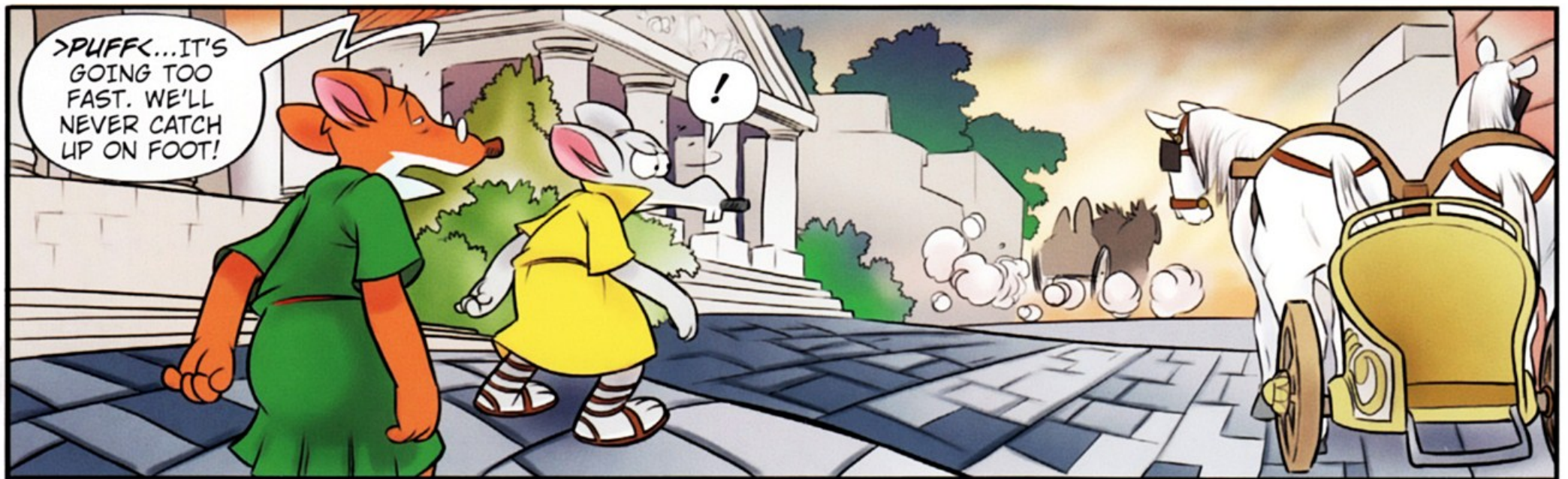
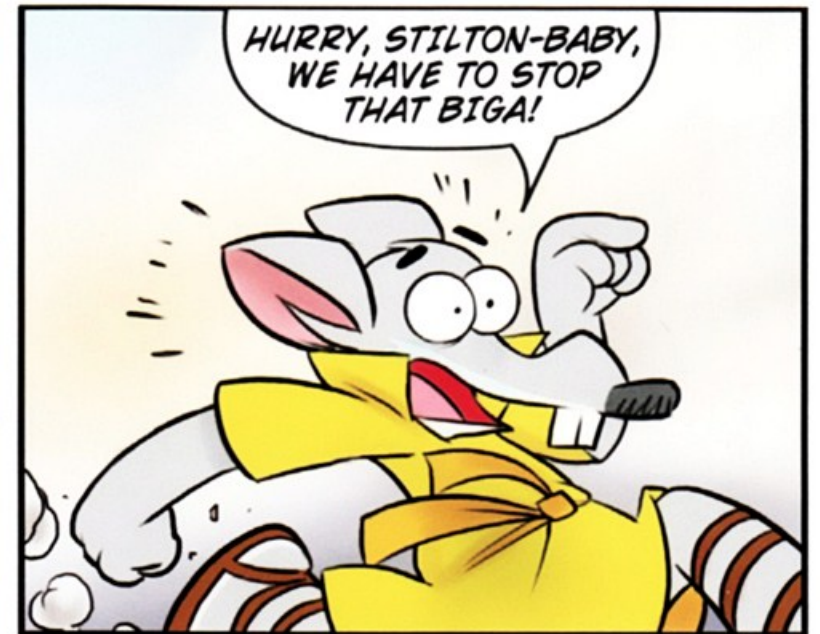


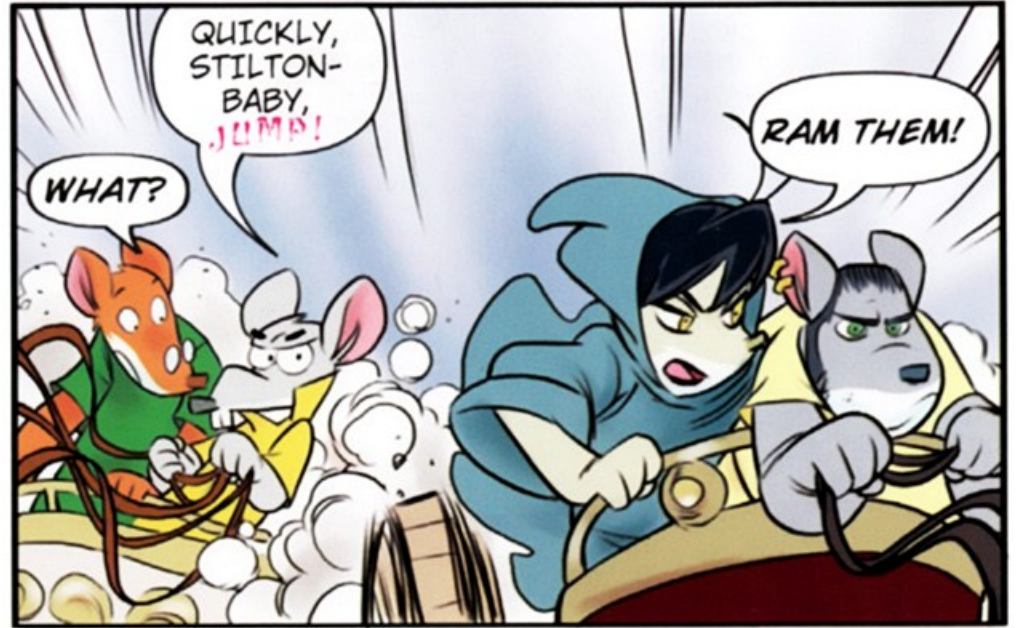


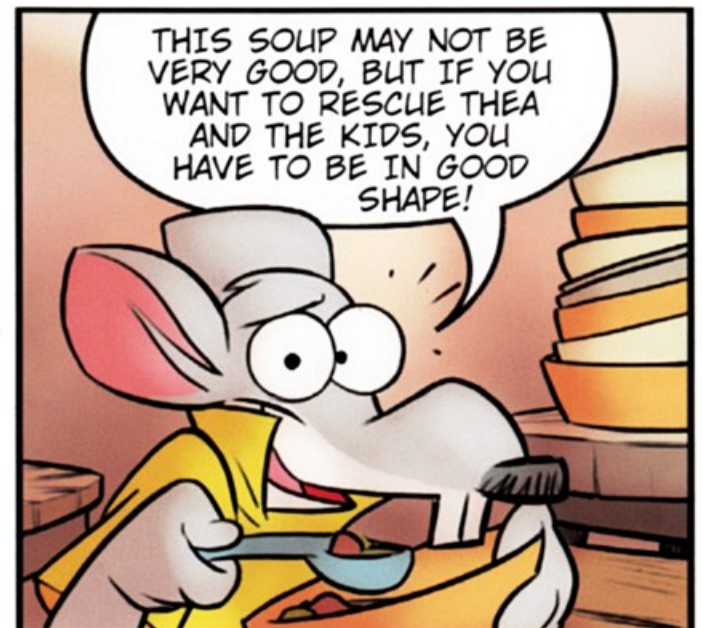
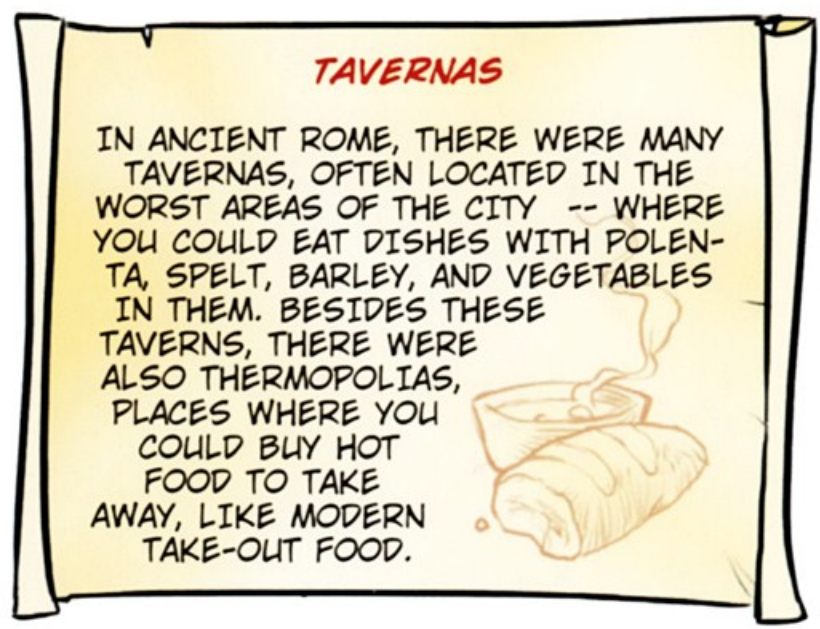
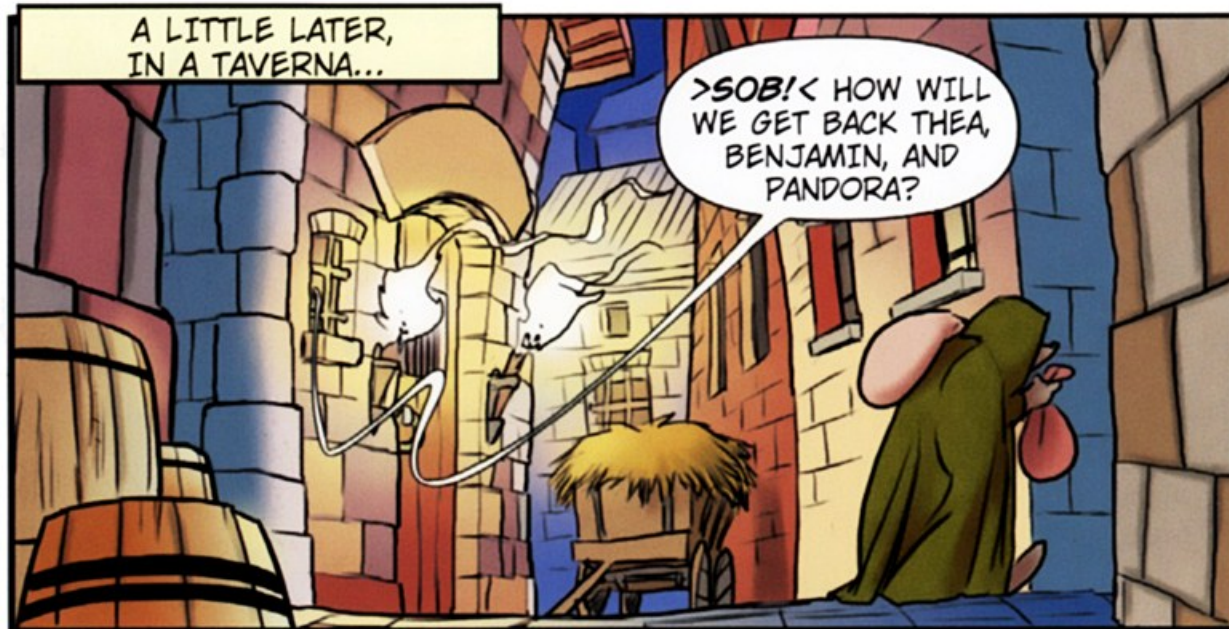
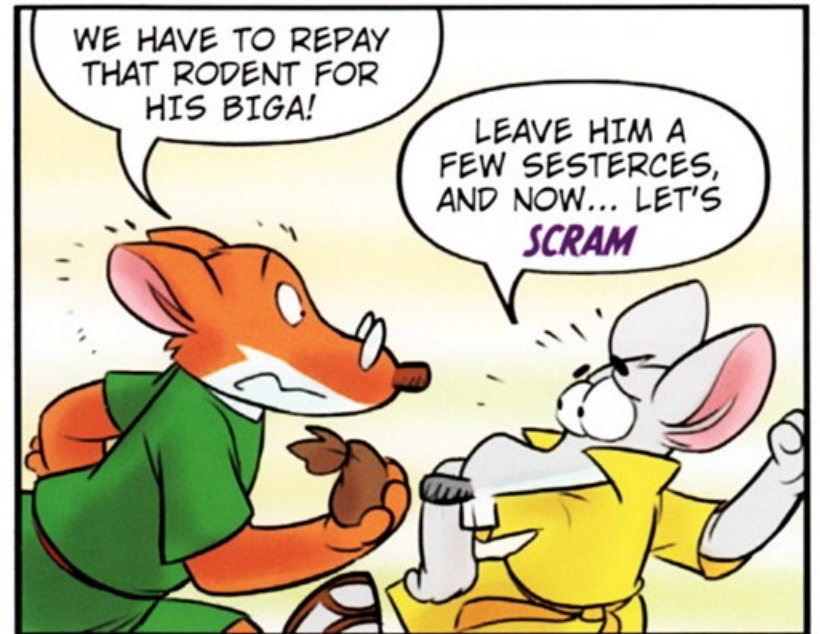
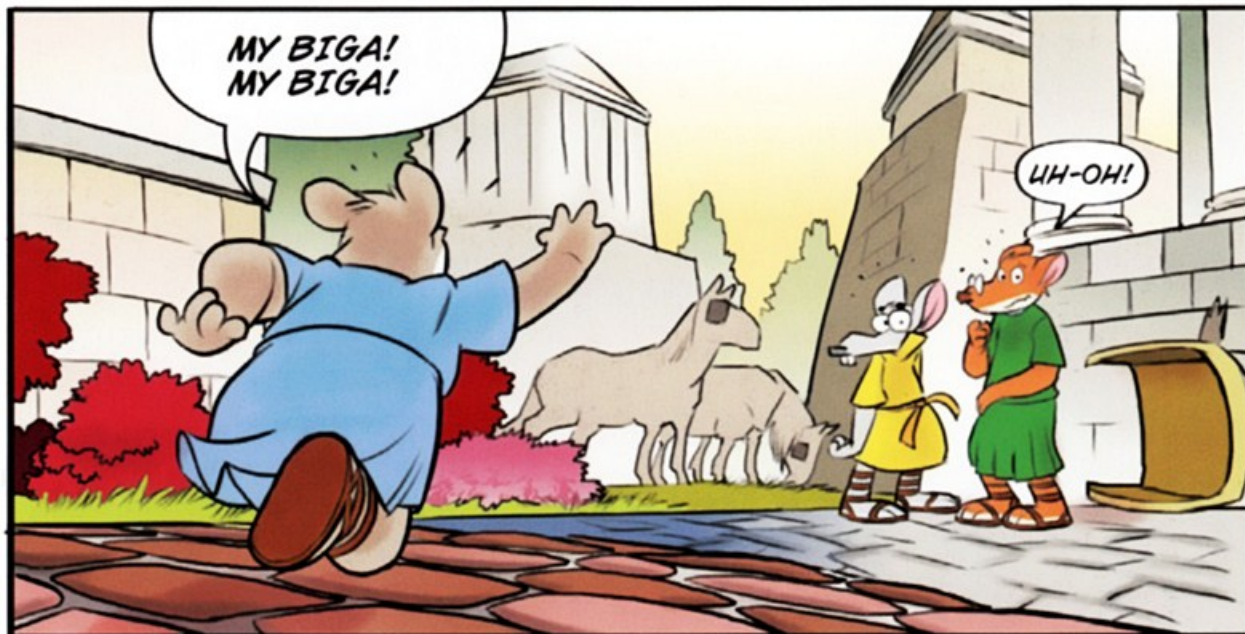
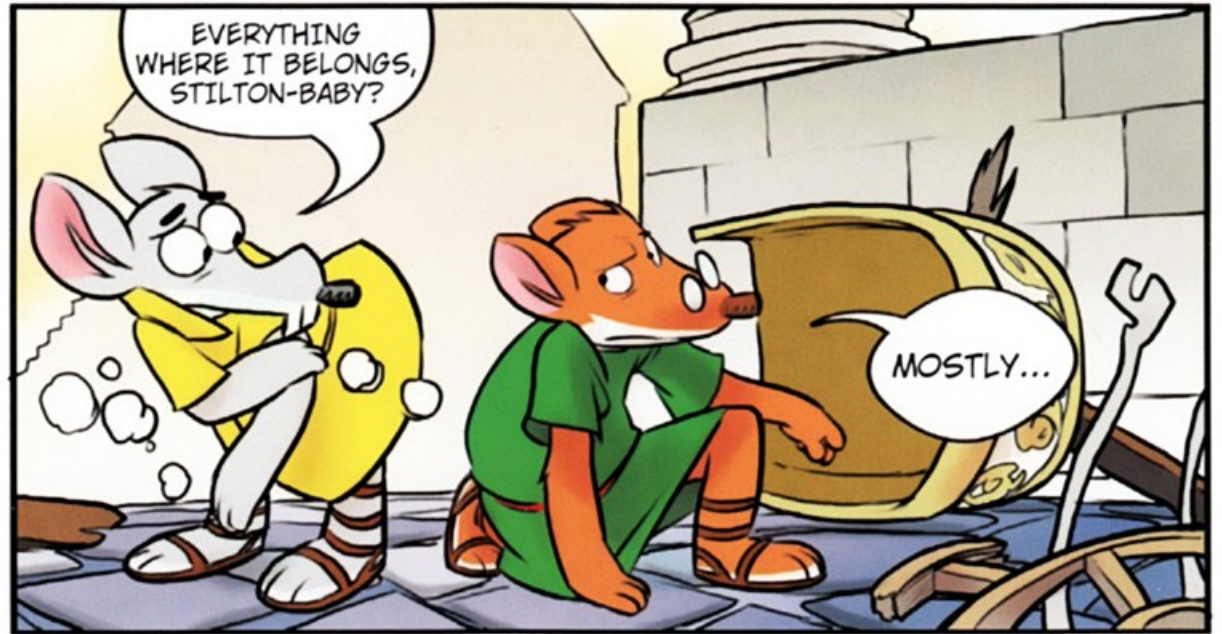




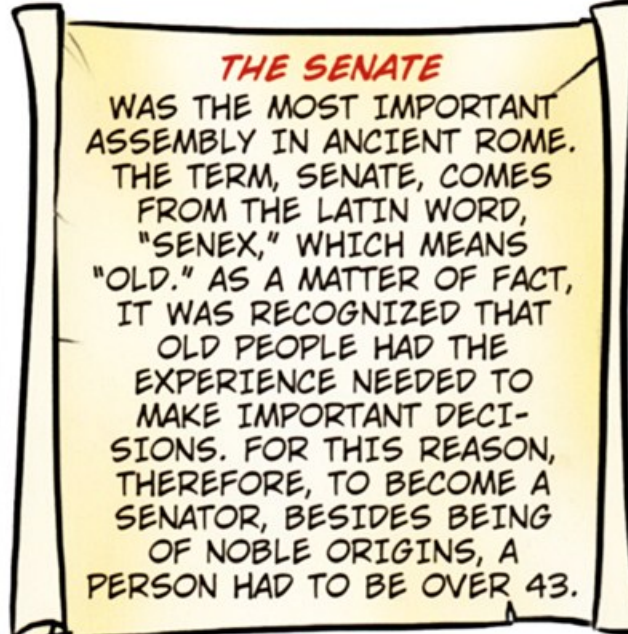
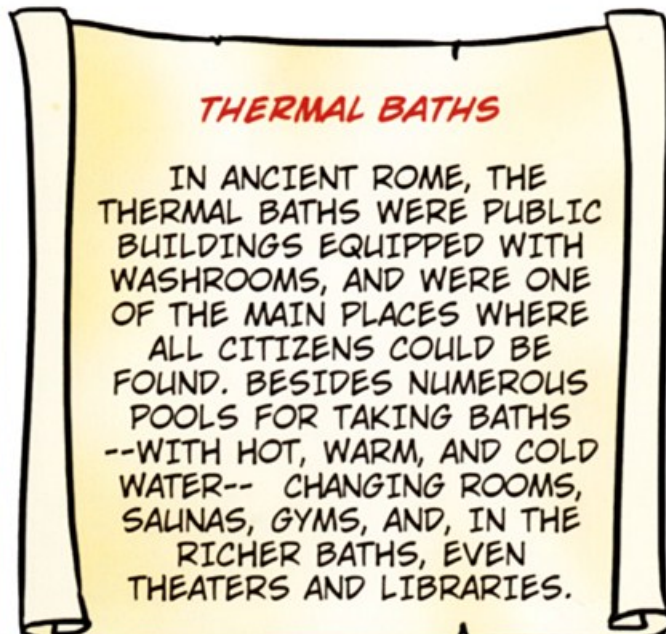




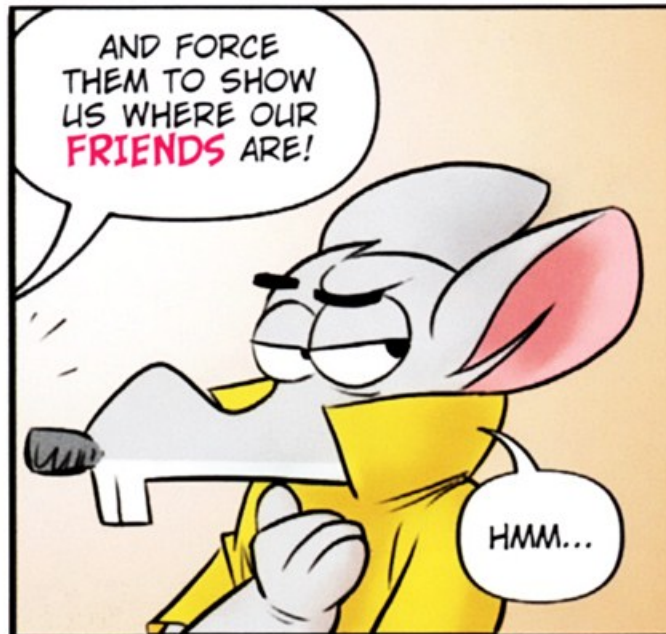
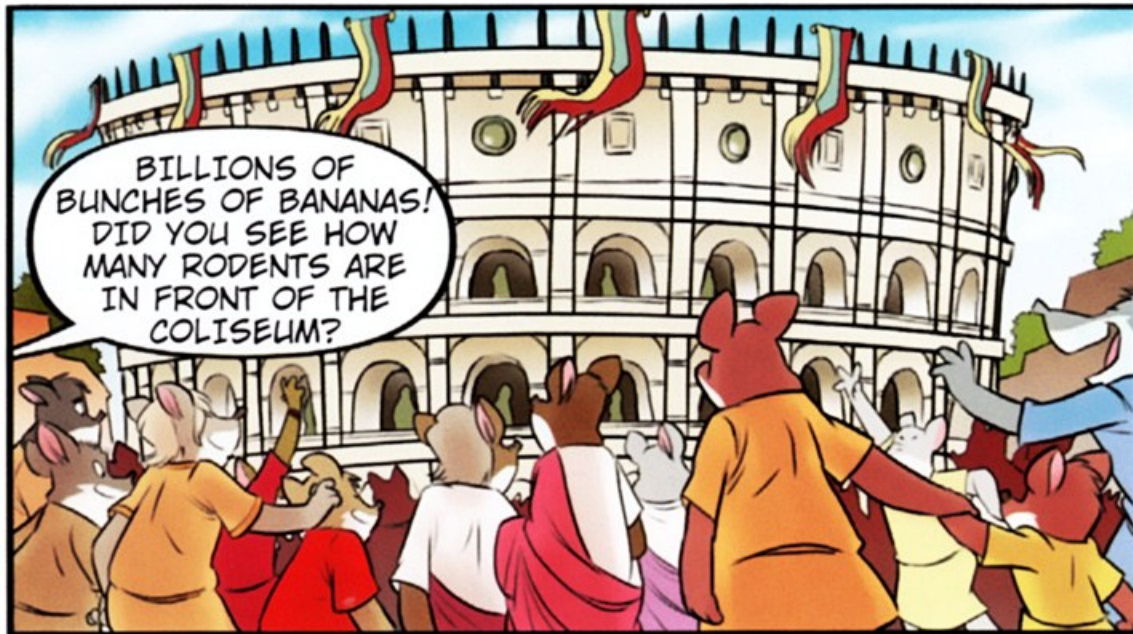


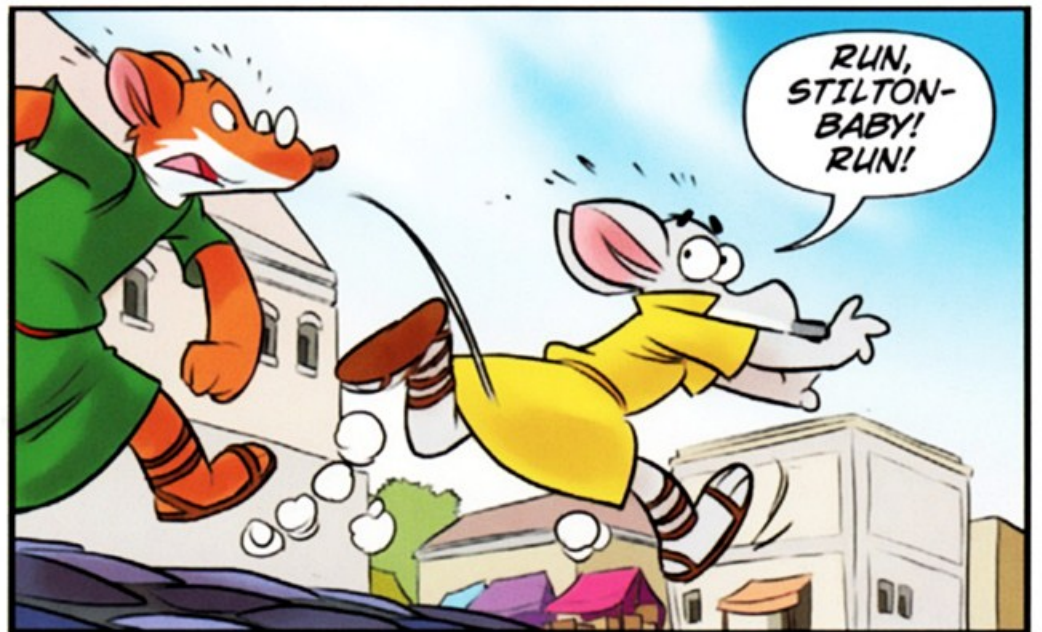


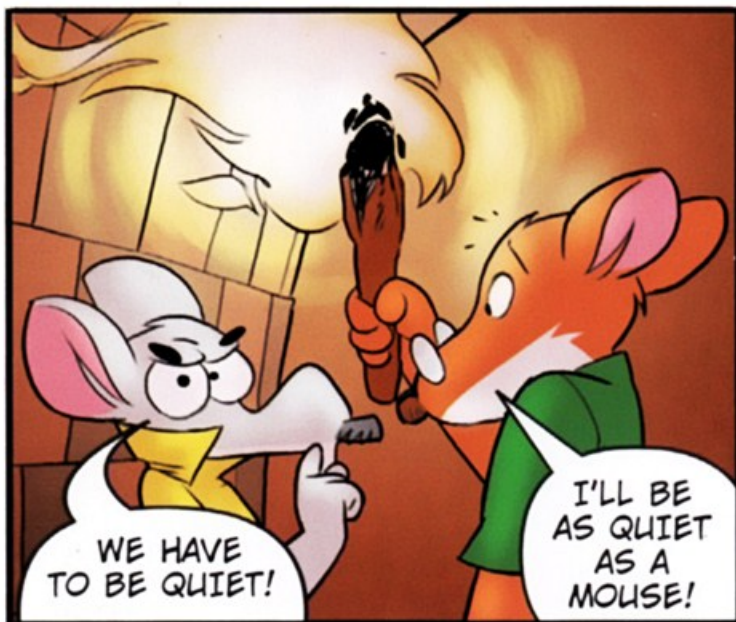
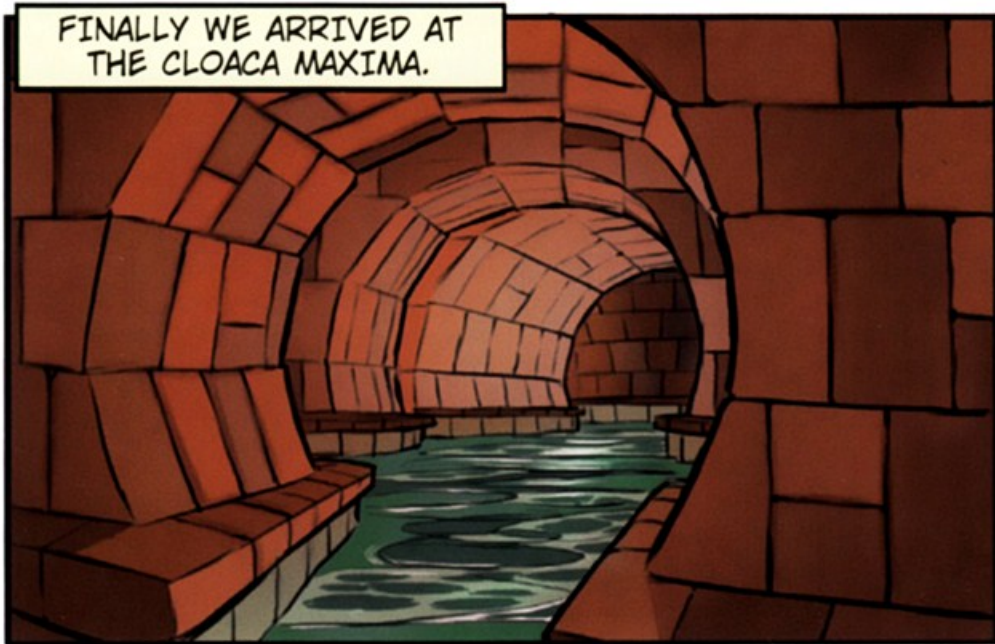


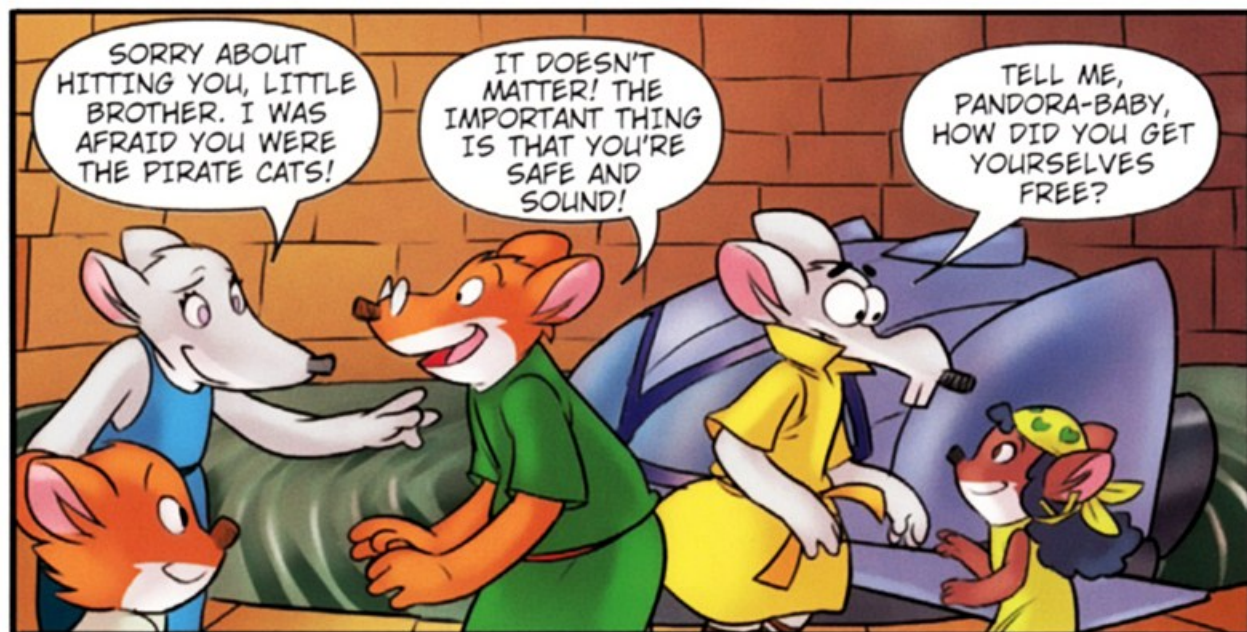
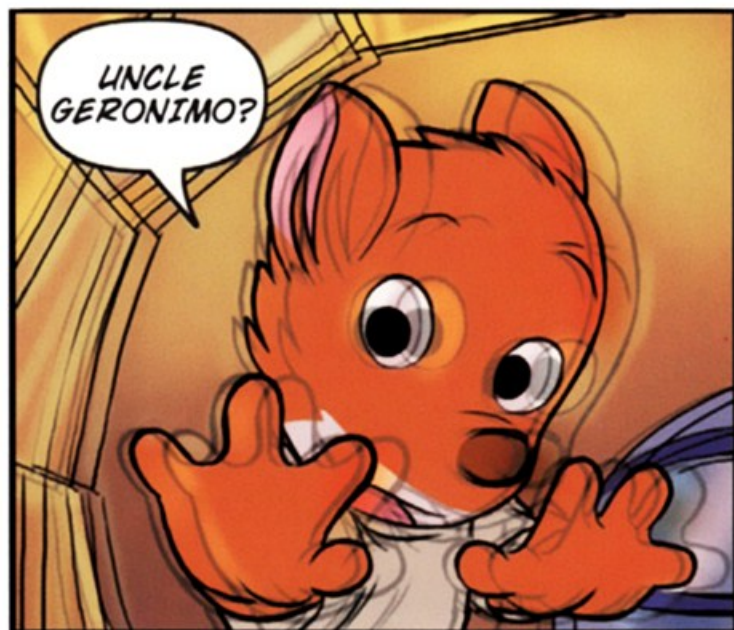


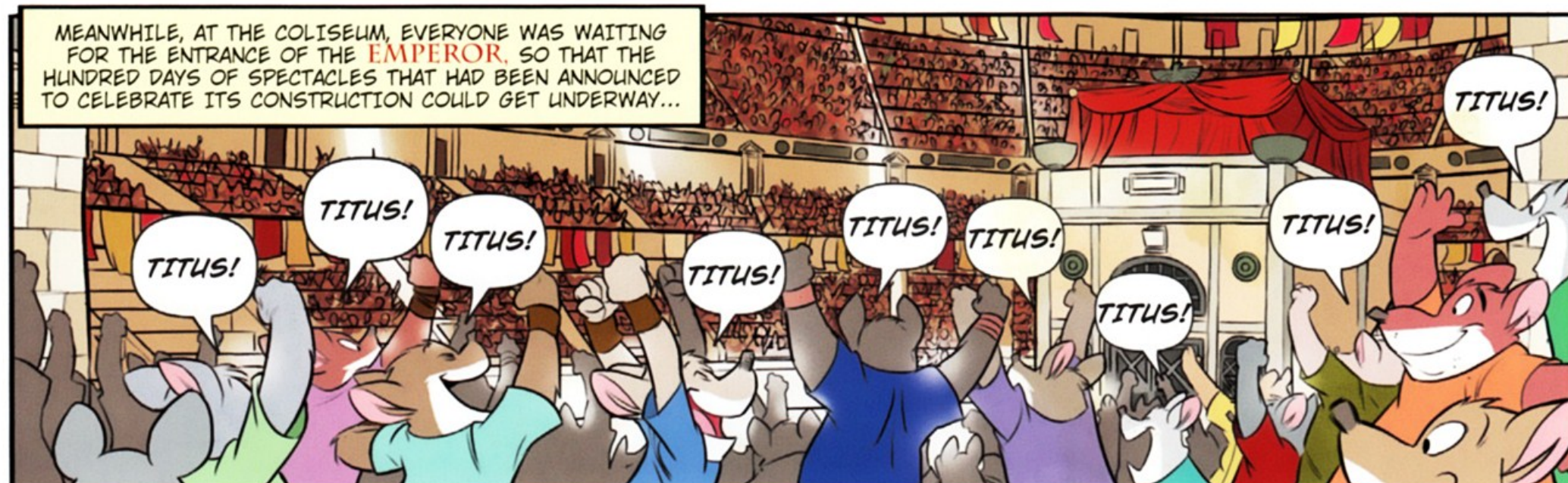






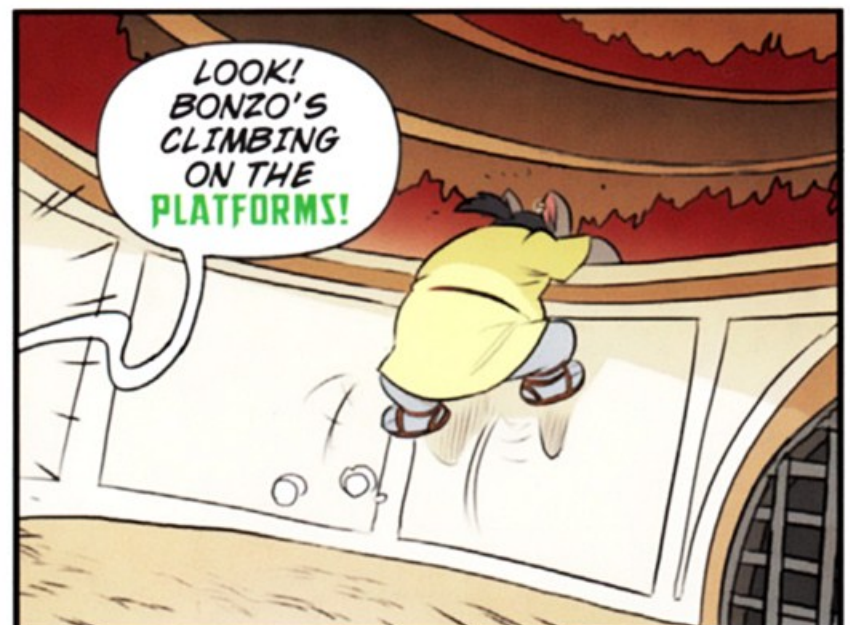
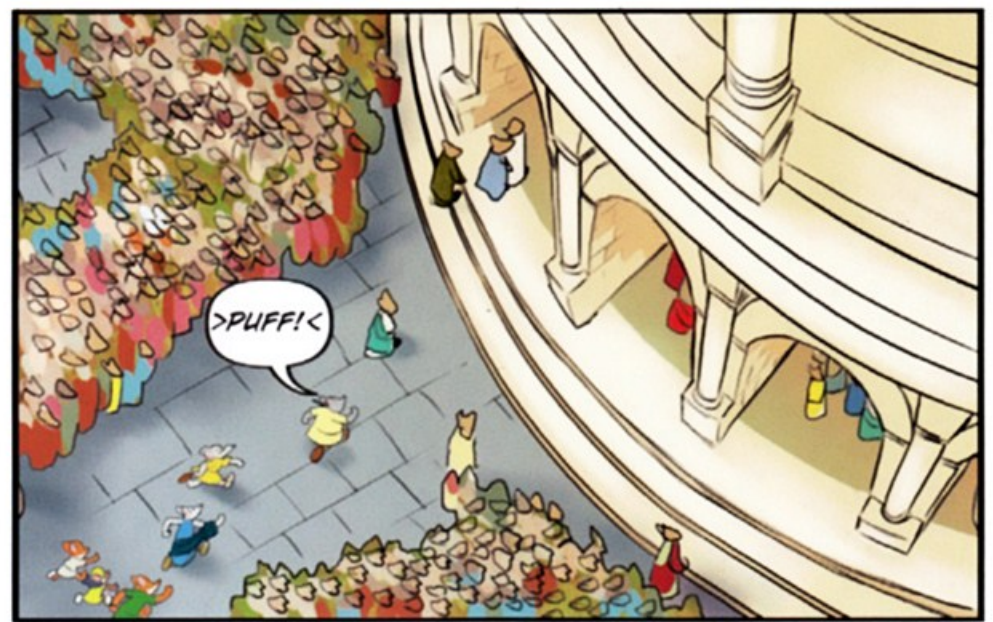
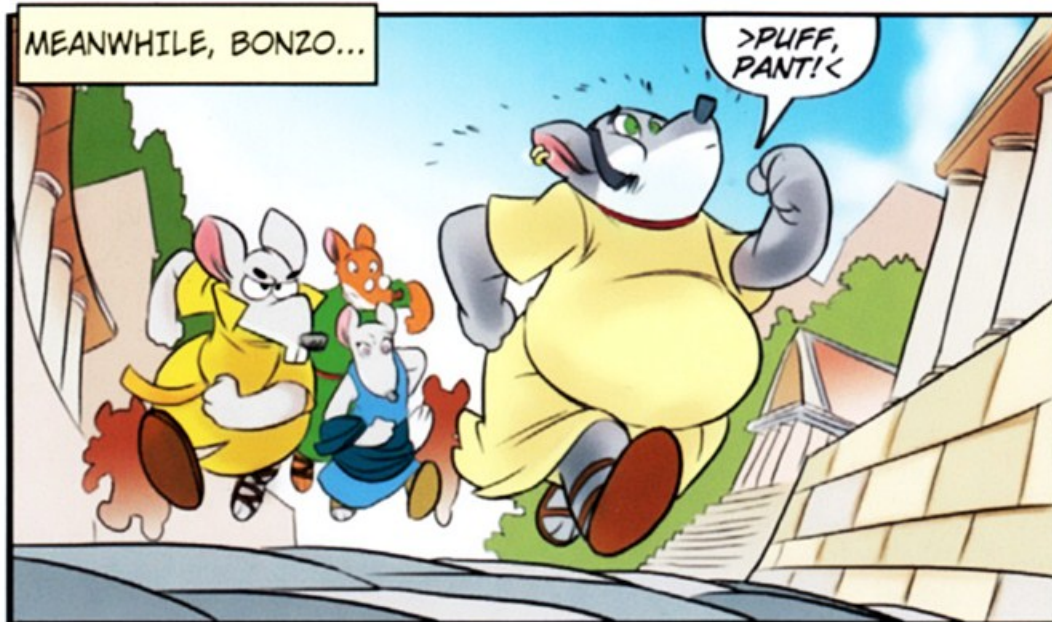




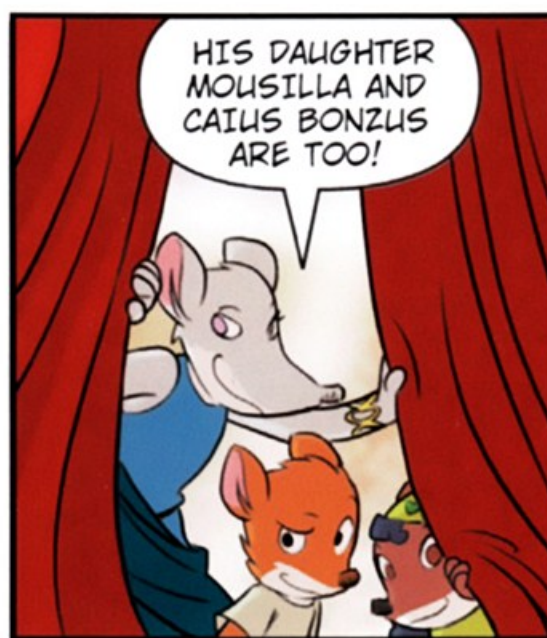


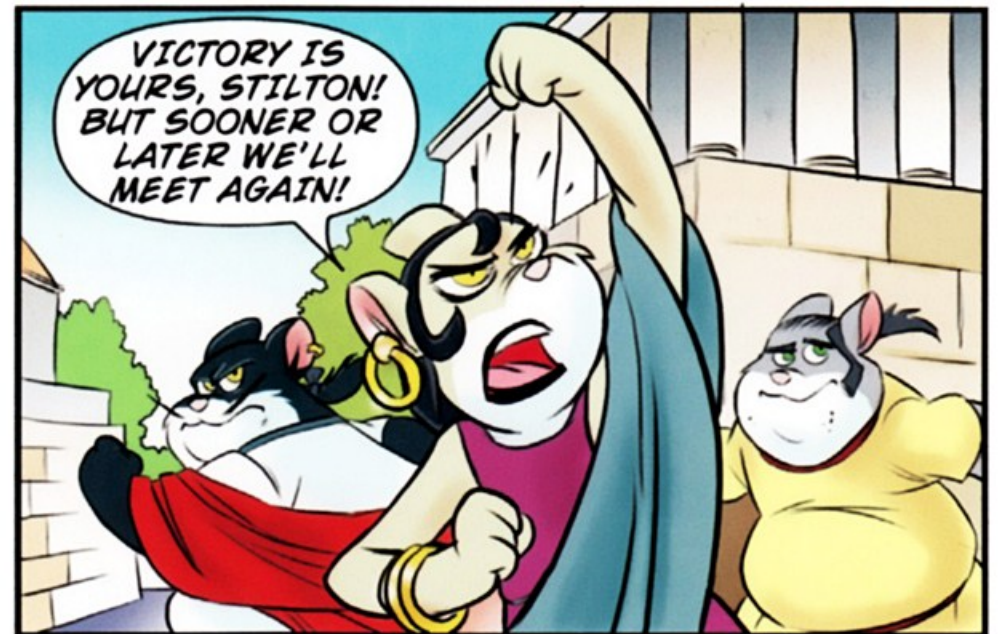
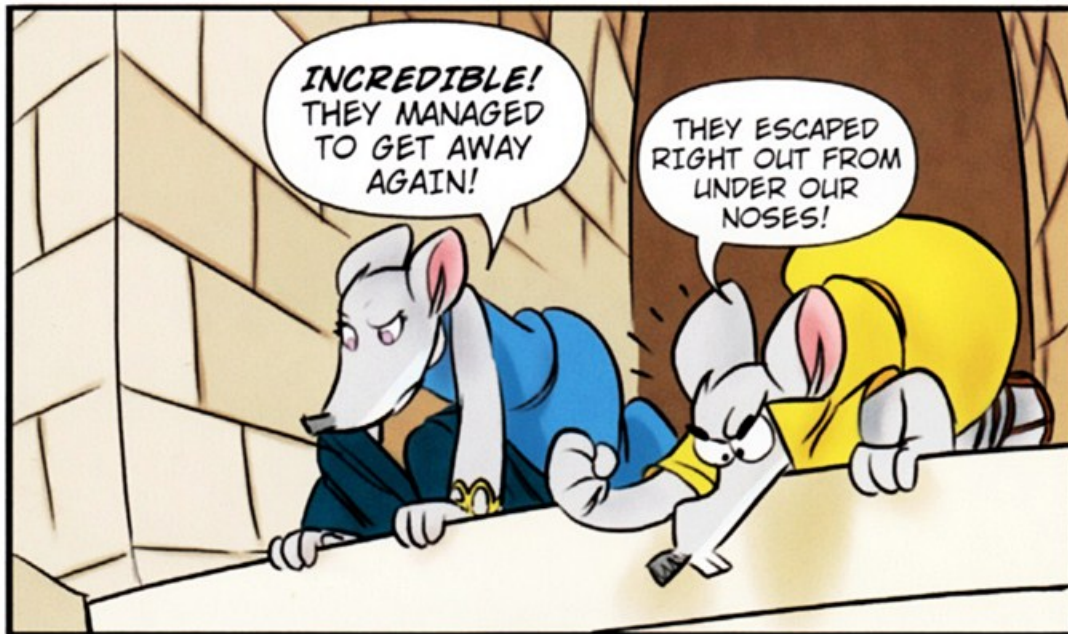
THE INAUGURATION OF THE COLISEUM

WAS A MEMORABLE EVENT IN ROMAN HISTORY. IN FACT, TITUS ORDERED IT TO BE CELEBRATED BY A HUNDRED DAYS OF SPECTACLES, WHICH ENTERTAINED THE PUBLIC FROM MORNING UNTIL EVENING. THE EMPEROR NOT ONLY WANTED TO GIVE HIS FAMILY'S NAME PRESTIGE, BUT ALSO TO WIN THE PEOPLE'S AFFECTION.









...AND THAT EVENING HE WANTED US TO BE THE GUESTS OF HONOR AT A GRAND BANQUET!



THE NEXT DAY, WE SAID GOODBYE TO OUR NEW FRIEND. AFTER SO MUCH DANGER...



...WE COULDN'T WAIT TO GET BACK HOME!



Geronimo!



COME ON, TELL ME EVERYTHING!

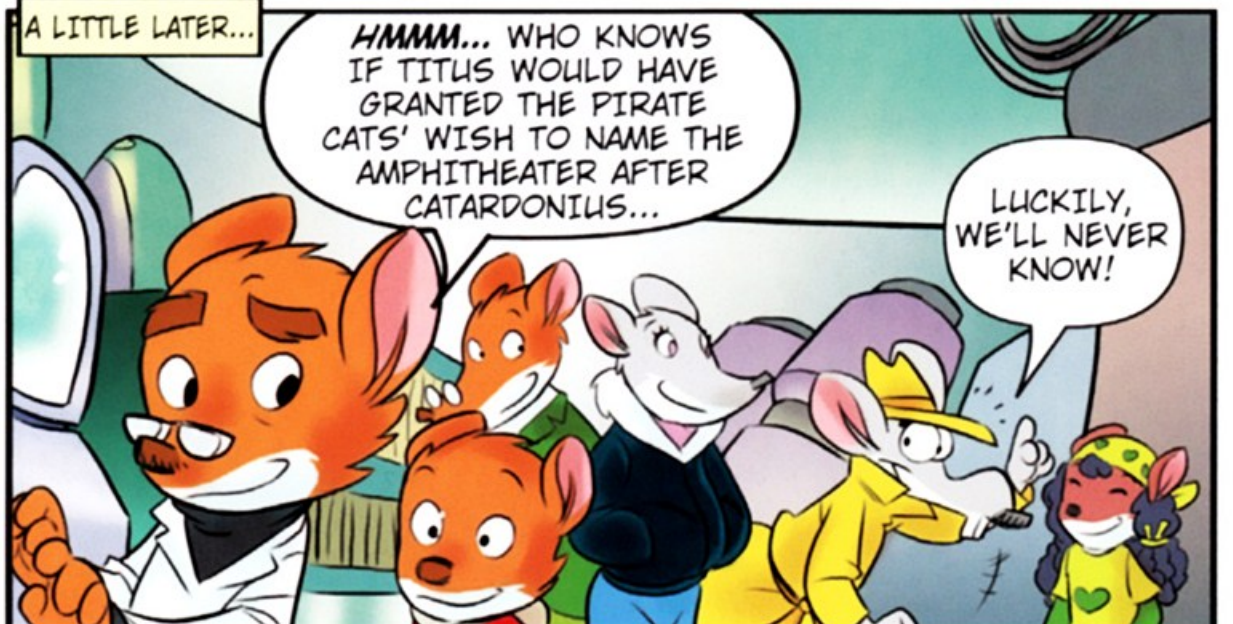
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE YOUR EARS!

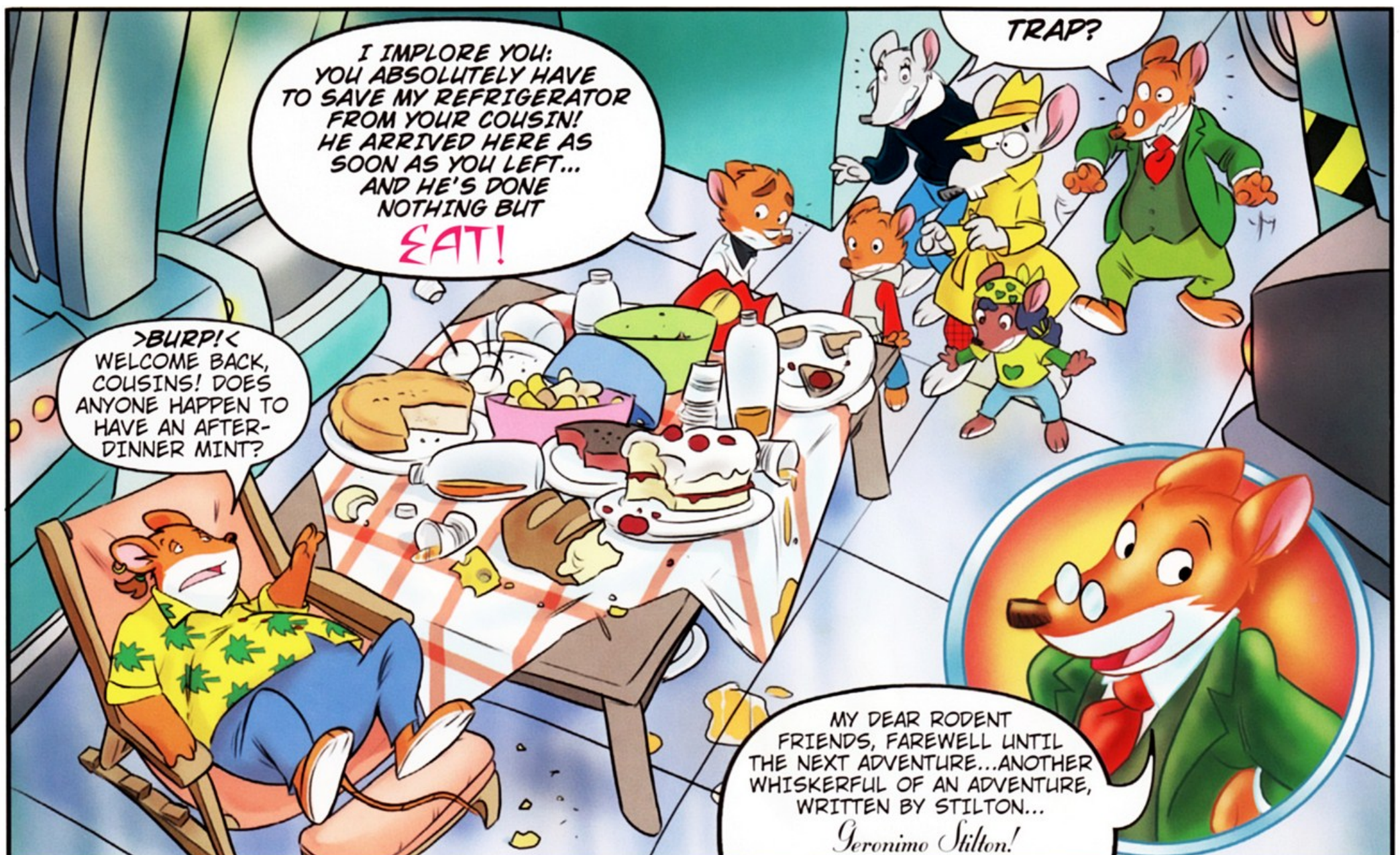
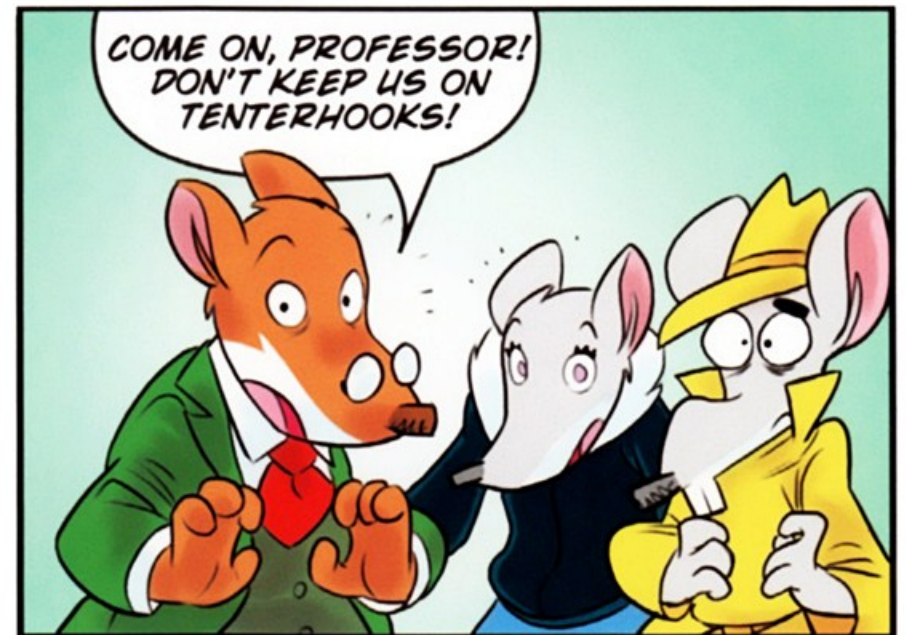
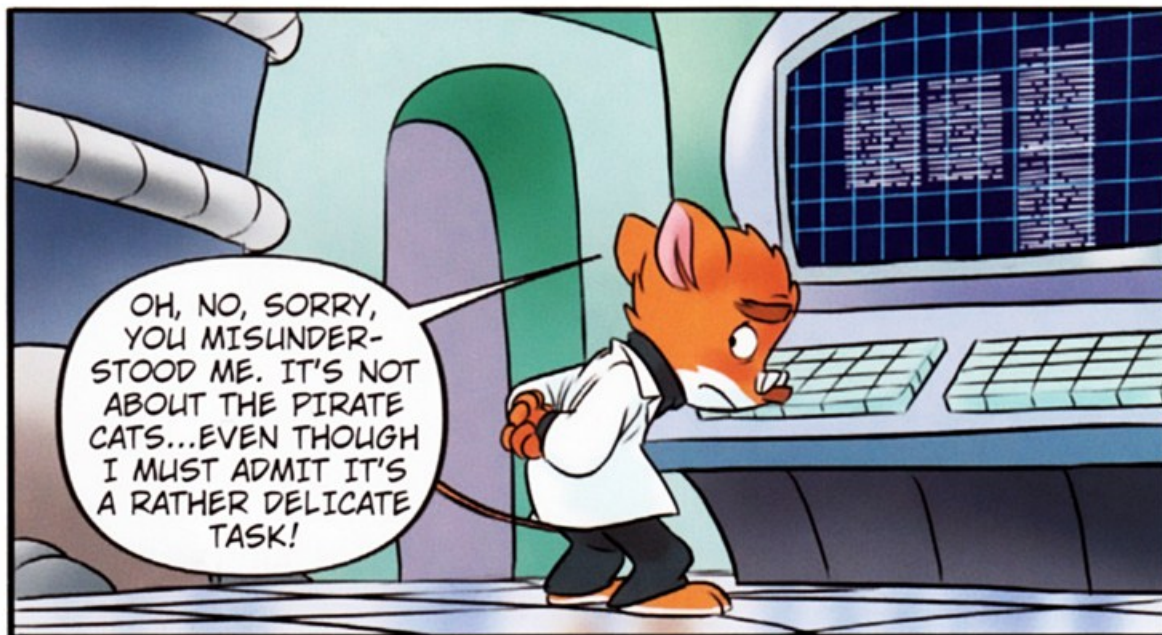
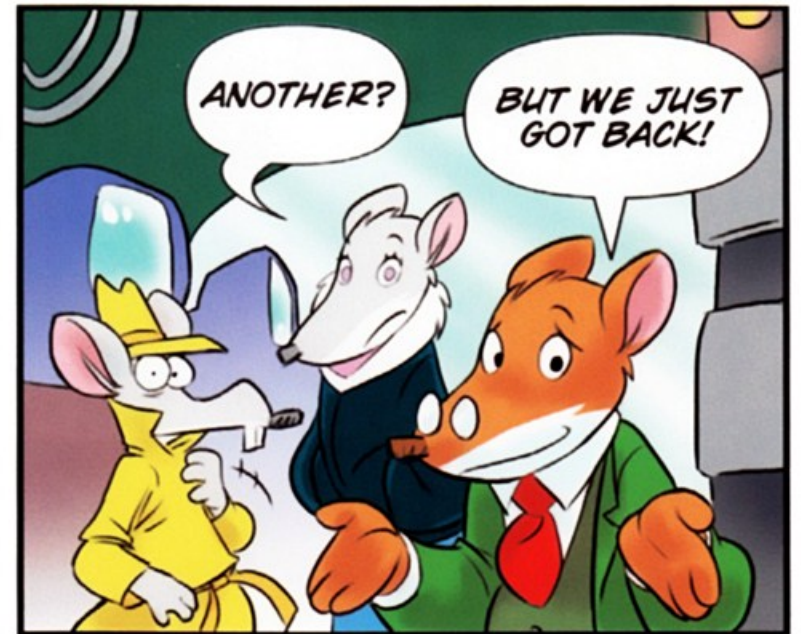


A LITTLE LATER...

HMMM... WHO KNOWS IF TITUS WOULD HAVE GRANTED THE PIRATE CATS' WISH TO NAME THE AMPHITHEATER AFTER CATARDONIUS...

LUCKILY, WE'LL NEVER KNOW!





WATCH OUT FOR PAPERCUTZ ™

Howdy! It's me Jim Salicrup, the ancient Editor-in-Chief of Papercutz, the publishers of the GERONIMO STILTON graphic novels – not to mention the BIONICLE, CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED, DISNEY FAIRIES (coming soon!), HARDY BOYS, NANCY DREW, and TALES FROM THE CRYPT too. But of course, you probably already know all that, especially if you're a regular visitor to www.papercutz.com and follower of the world-famous Papercutz Blog!

Like I said in the "WATCH OUT FOR PAPERCUTZ" page in GERONIMO STILTON Graphic Novel #2 "The Secret of the Sphinx," although both Geronimo Stilton and I are both Editors-in-Chief, Geronimo can travel through time, but I can't! But, believe it or not, I've been working on that. Even now, as I type these words in your past, I'm communicating with you in my future! I admit, that's not nearly as impressive as my actually traveling through time, but it's a start!

Another way I've discovered to kinda travel through time is by the pages of this graphic novel. At any point in "The Coliseum Con" I can either go forward or back in time in the story by simply flipping the pages ahead or back. Again, I admit that's not as impressive as what Geronimo can do in his Speedrat, but hey, I don't have Professor Volt helping me out here!

Finally, for a real peek at the future, simply turn this page and check out the preview of GERONIMO STILTON Graphic Novel #4 "Following the Trail of Marco Polo!" Now, if you're picking up this graphic novel soon after it went on sale in bookstores everywhere, then you'll have to wait until April of 2010 for the rest of the Marco Polo story! Think about it! You have to wait until the future before you can go way back into the past again with Geronimo! But if you picked up this graphic novel anytime after April 2010, you may have already read "Following the Trail of Marco Polo" and are picking up this graphic novel because somehow you might've missed it when it first came out!

Enough! Time travel makes my head spin! The best way to find out what's going on right now—in your present time—is to check us out on www.papercutz.com! See you there!

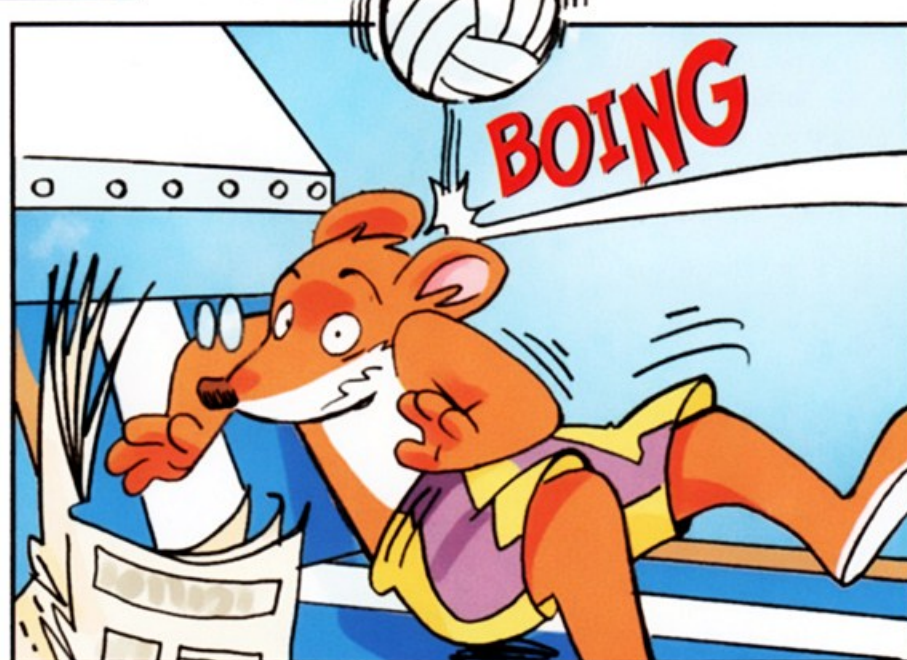
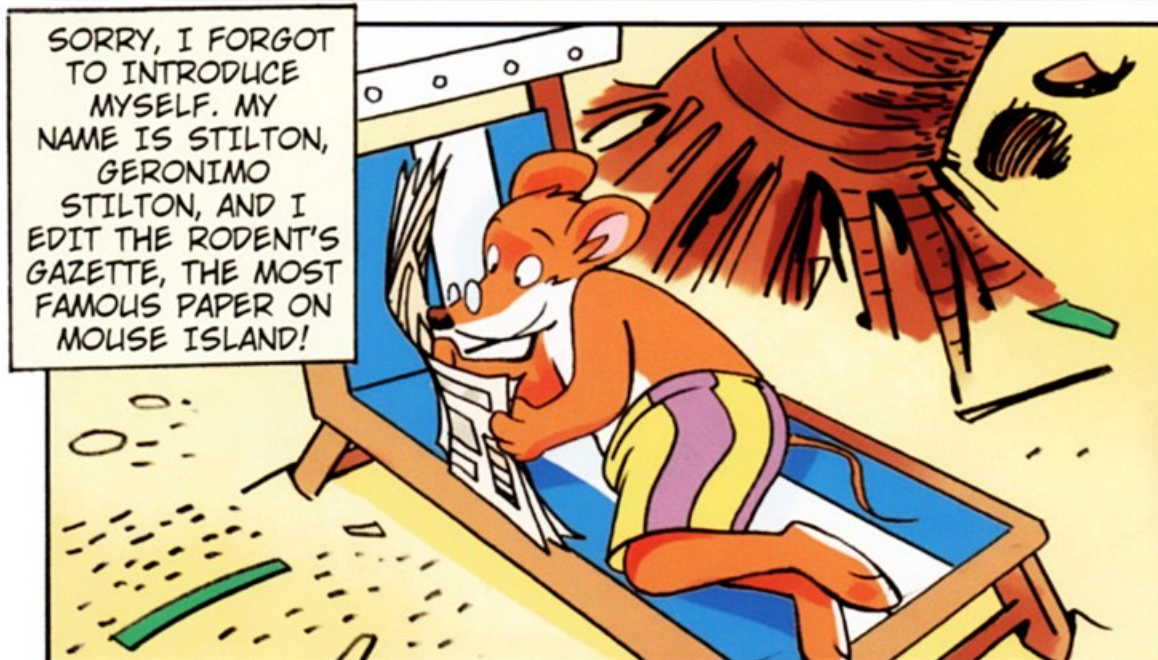
Thanks,

Jim



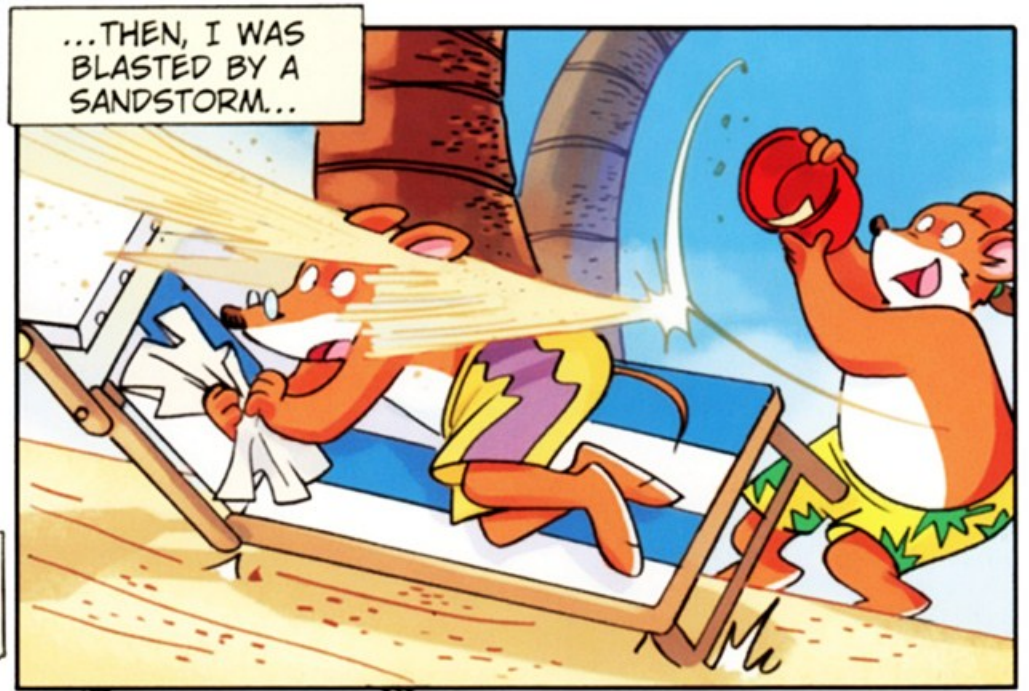
Caricature drawn by Steve Brodner at the MoCCA Art Fest.

Special Preview of GERONIMO STILTON
Graphic Novel #4 – “Following the Trail of Marco Polo”





I WAS ON VACATION, BUT I WASN'T RESTING VERY MUCH. AFTER I GOT HIT BY A BALL, A CRAB PINCHED ME...



...THEN, I WAS BLASTED BY A SANDSTORM...



...AND LAST OF ALL, I WAS MISTAKEN FOR A **FISH** BY A FLOCK OF SEAGULLS!



TO HELP ME RELAX, TRAP PERSUADED ME TO GO WATERSKIING...

STAND UP AS SOON THE SPEEDBOAT TAKES OFF!

UHM... I'LL TRY!



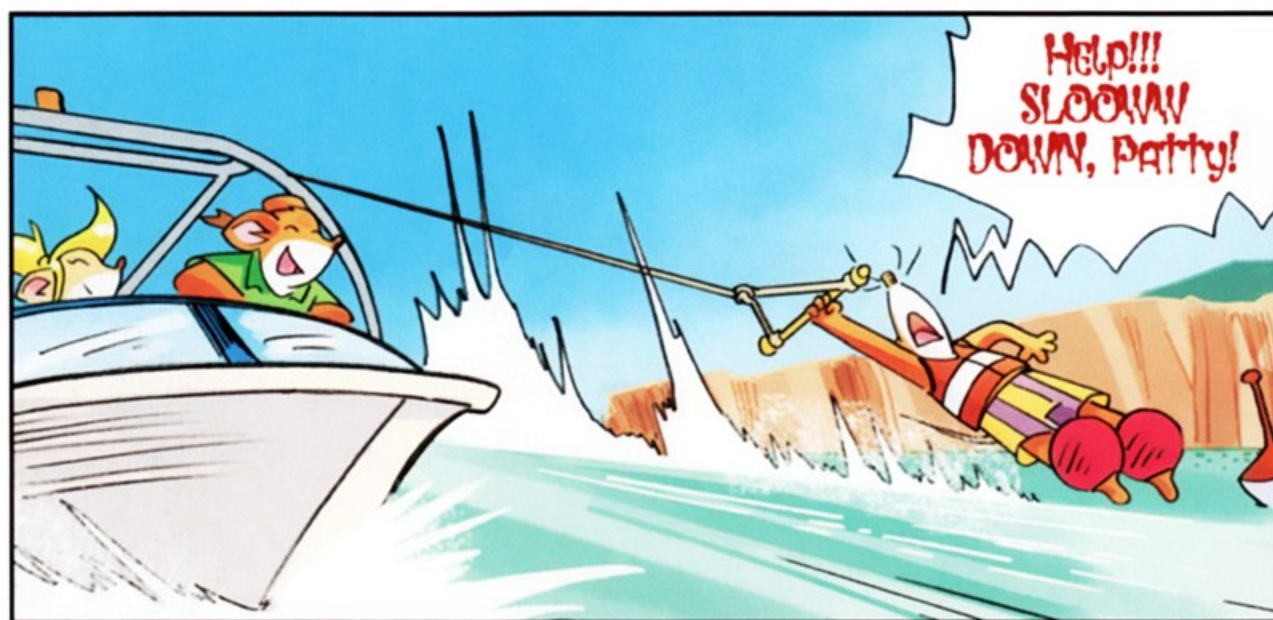
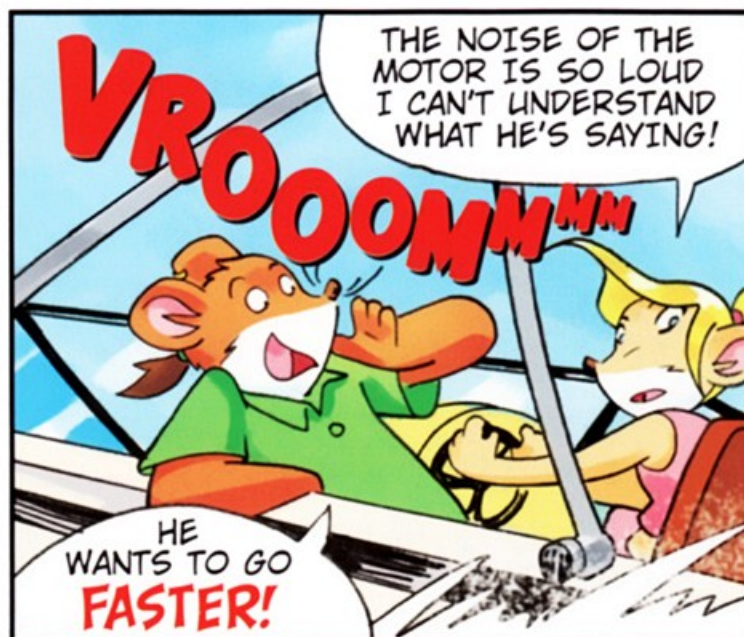
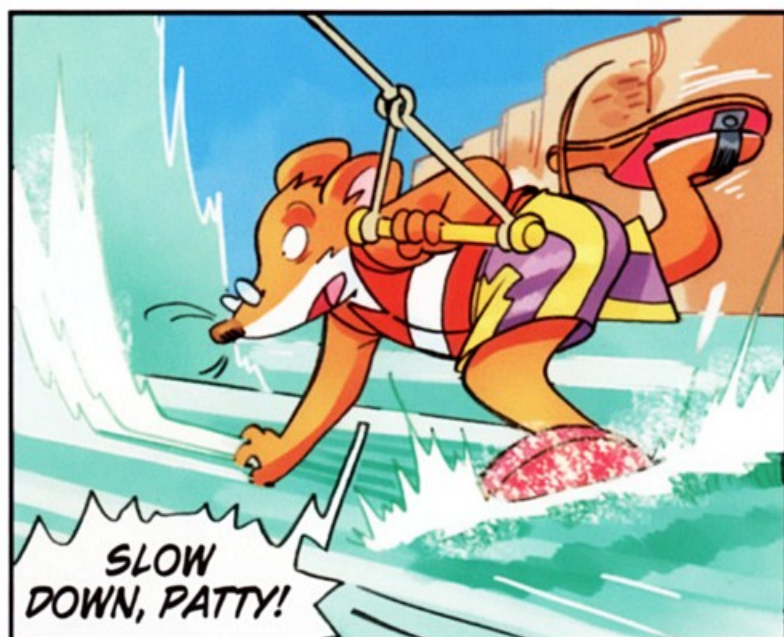
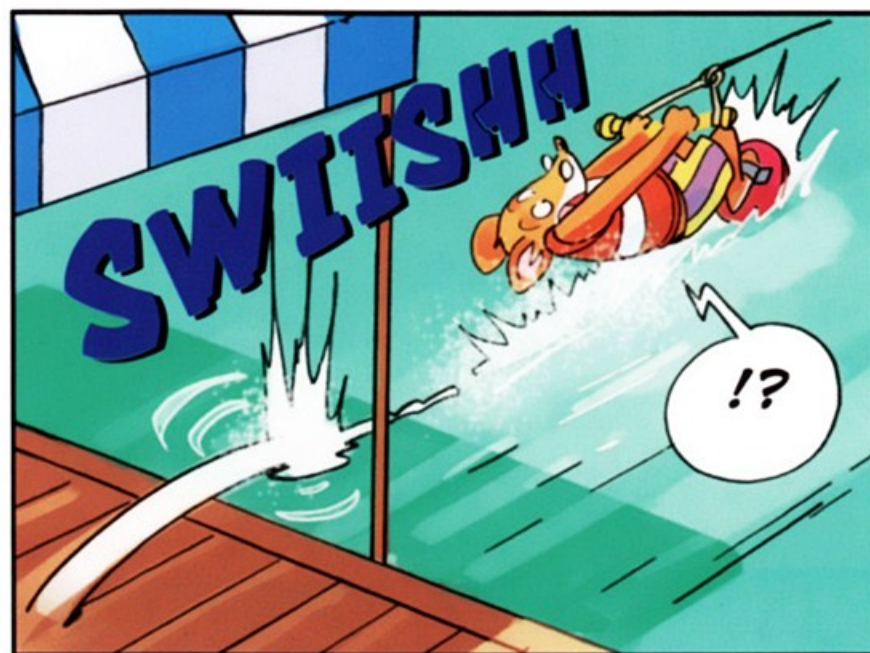
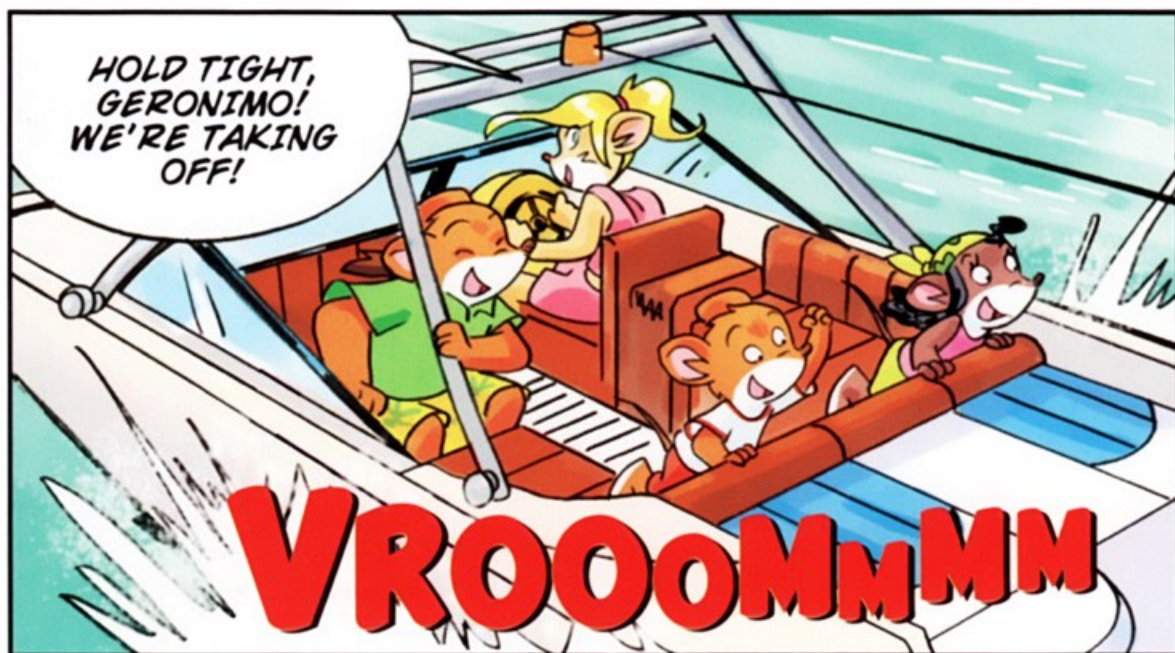
MAYBE IT WOULD'VE BEEN EASIER IF YOU'D PUT SKIS ON ME INSTEAD OF THESE THINGS!

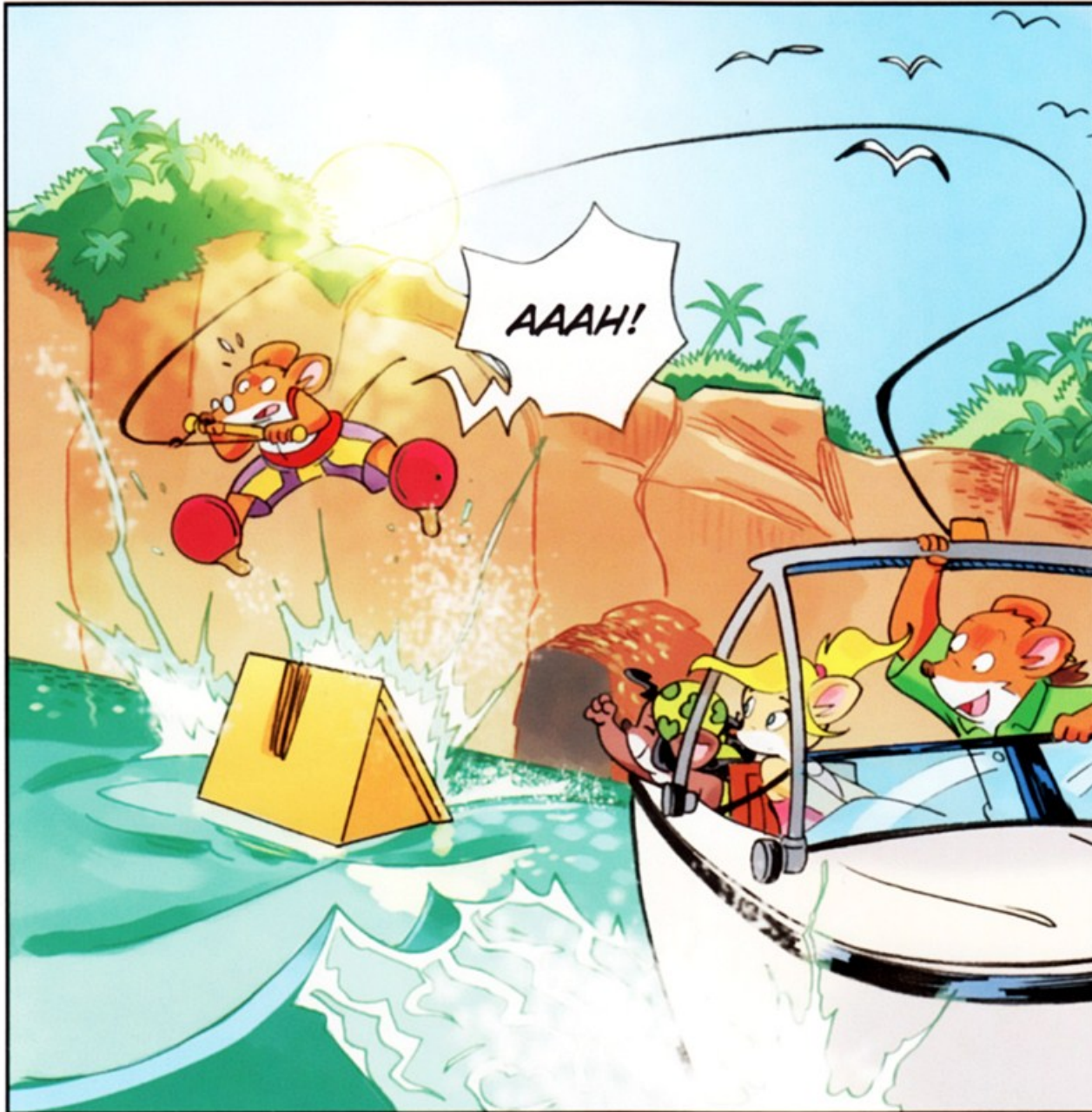


TRUST ME, DEAR COUSIN. THOSE THINGS ARE THE AQUATIC VERSION OF **SNOW**.

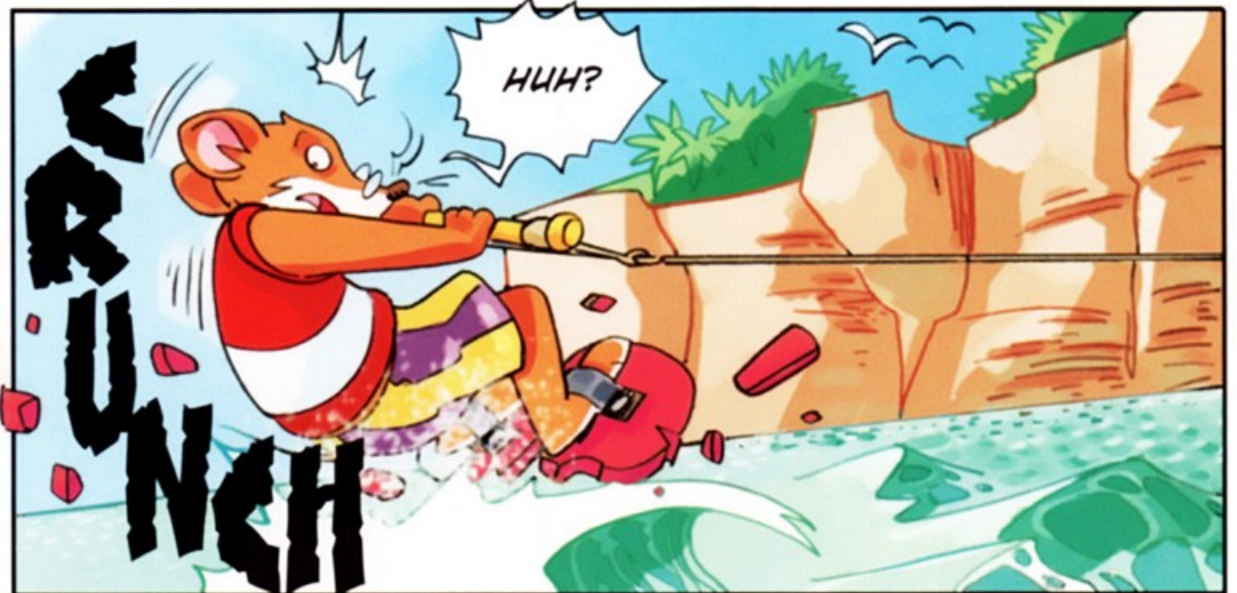
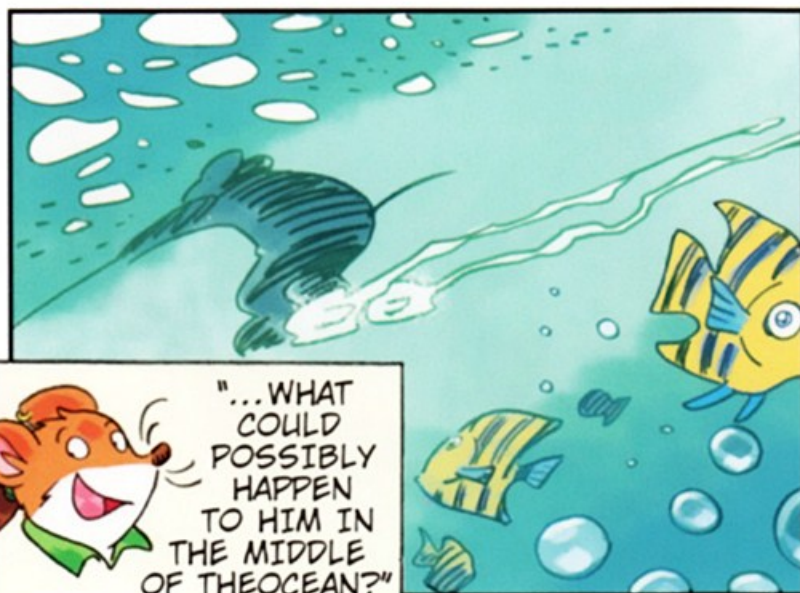


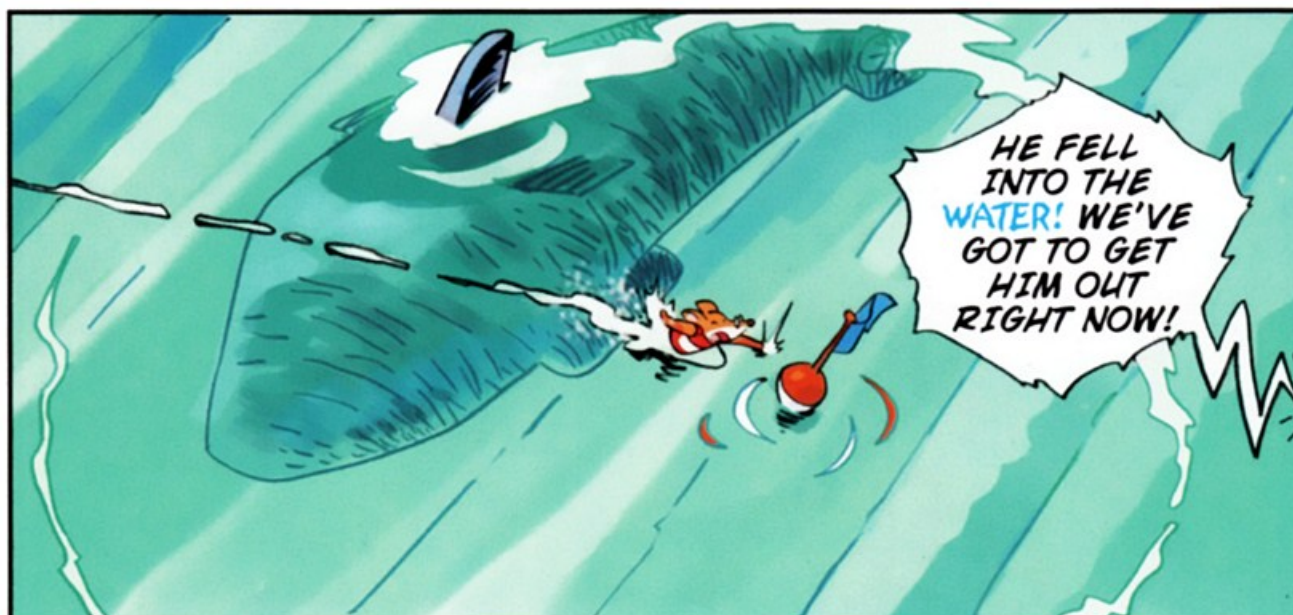
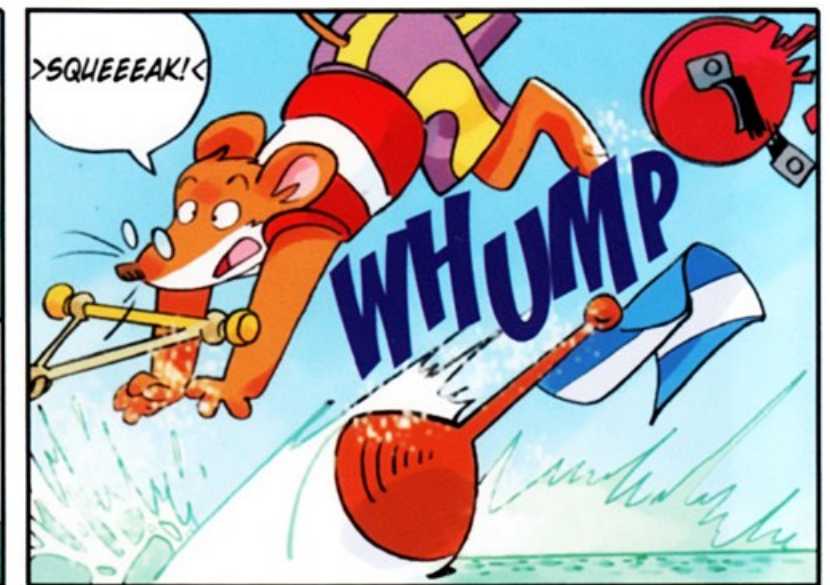
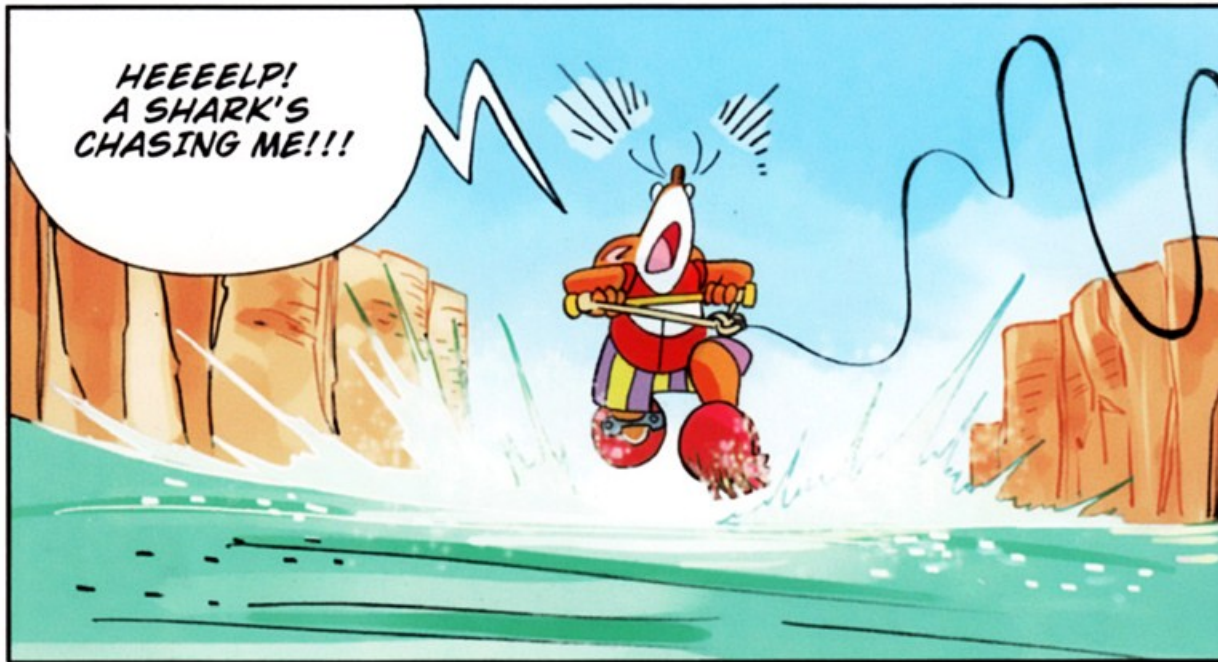
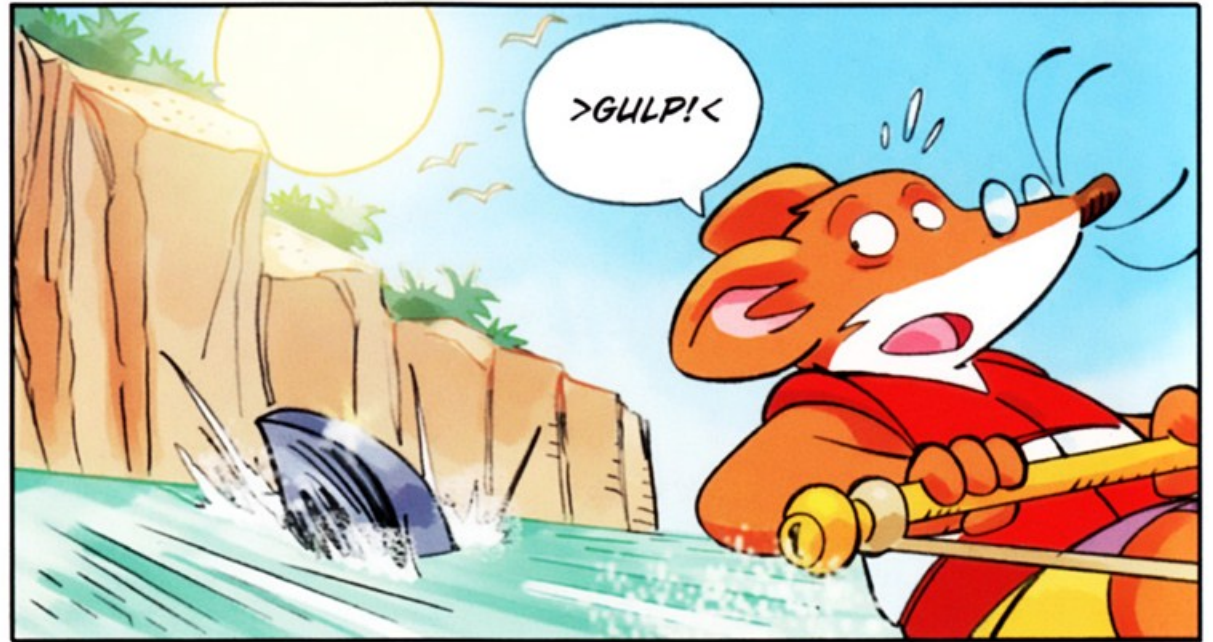
MAYBE SO... BUT THEY SEEM LIKE TOTALLY NORMAL BEACH TENNIS PADDLES!





I'D BETTER SLOW
DOWN! I WOULDN'T
WANT HIM TO HURT
HIMSELF!





**Don't miss GERONIMO STILTON
Graphic Novel #4 – "Following the Trail of Marco Polo"**



THE PIRATE CATS TRAVEL TO THE PAST ON THE CATJET SO THAT THEY CAN CHANGE HISTORY AND BECOME RICH AND FAMOUS. BUT GERONIMO AND THE STILTON FAMILY ALWAYS MANAGE TO UNMASK THEM!



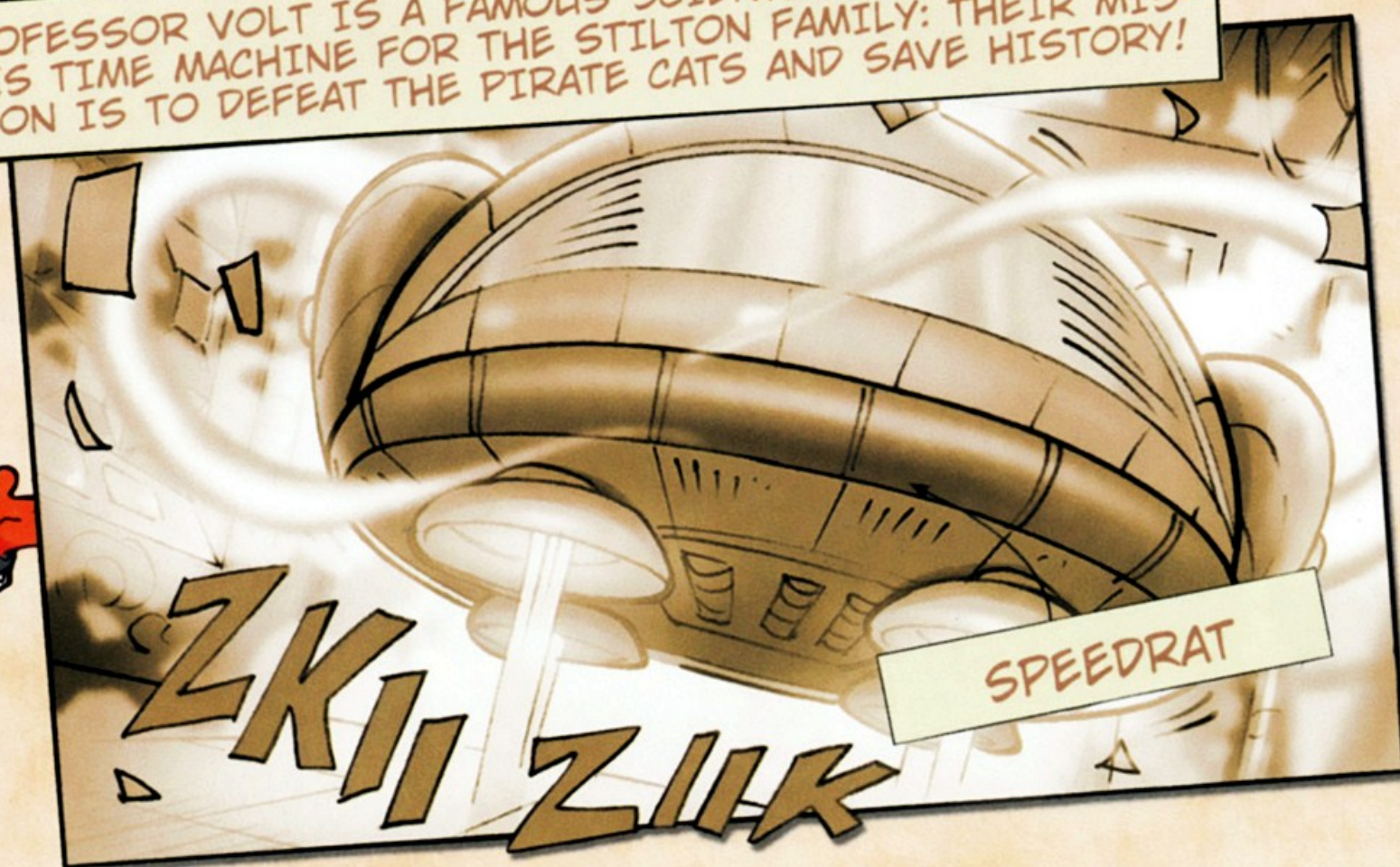
A FEW MINUTES LATER...

PERFECT! DRESSED LIKE THIS, WE CAN MOVE AROUND UNDISTURBED!

WAIT A MINUTE.... WHY ARE YOUR TUNICS ELEGANT AND MINE ALL RATTY?



PROFESSOR VOLT IS A FAMOUS SCIENTIST. HE DESIGNED THIS TIME MACHINE FOR THE STILTON FAMILY: THEIR MISSION IS TO DEFEAT THE PIRATE CATS AND SAVE HISTORY!



"Geronimo Stilton Rocks!" -Mark Crilley, creator of "Akika" and "Miki Falls"

Geronimo Stilton

Saving the future, by protecting the past!

GERONIMO STILTON IS THE EDITOR OF THE RODENT'S GAZETTE, THE MOST FAMOUS PAPER ON MOUSE ISLAND. IN HIS FREE TIME HE LOVES TO TELL FUN, HAPPY STORIES. IN THIS ADVENTURE, GERONIMO HAS TO FACE HIS WORST ENEMIES, THE PIRATE CATS, WHO HAVE DISCOVERED A WAY TO TRAVEL BACK IN TIME AND CHANGE HISTORY...

...TERSILLA OF CATATONIA WANTS TO RENAME THE GREAT ROMAN COLISEUM "CATARDONIUS" AFTER HER FATHER, CATARDONE III OF CATATONIA, SO THAT THE PIRATE CAT LINEAGE WILL BECOME WORLD-FAMOUS THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES! BUT NOW, THANKS TO THE PIRATE CATS, EMPEROR TITUS WANTS THE COLISEUM NAMED AFTER HIMSELF! HOW WILL GERONIMO, THEA, BENJAMIN, PANDORA, AND NOSYMOUSE PREVENT HISTORY FROM CHANGING? CAN GERONIMO STOP BOTH THE PIRATE CATS AND THE EMPEROR OF ROME?!



\$9.95 US / \$12.75 CAN

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